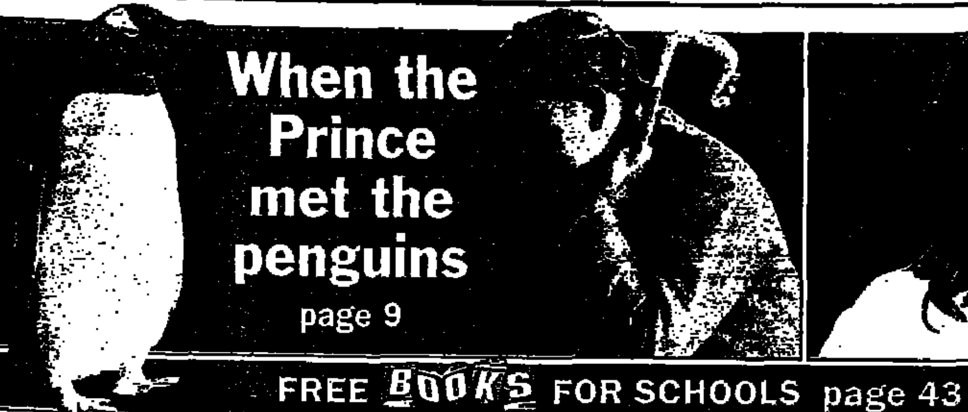
# THE TIMES

No. 66,462 TUESDAY MARCH 16 1999 http://www.the-times.co.uk




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What your wedding list says about you
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## Brussels accused of losing control

# Resign call to Santer and his team

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES SANTER, the President of the European Commission, was under pressure to resign with members of his team last night after outside inspectors released a devastating report that concluded that he had effectively lost control of the Brussels executive.

In an unprecedented crisis for the European Union's administrative machine, MEPs of most political camps urged Mr Santer to take full responsibility for an epidemic of fraud, irregularities, cronyism and mismanagement that the auditors found rampant in the Commission.

"The buck stops with Mr Santer and he cannot avoid his responsibility," Pauline Green, the British Labour MEP who heads the Socialist Group, the largest bloc in the European Parliament, said.

Alan Donnelly, leader of the Labour Party in the Parliament, called on Mr Santer and Edith Cresson, the French Commissioner also severely criticised, to stand down. "If he stays, he will undermine the credibility of the Commission and the European Union itself, " he said of Mr Santer.

Edward McMillan-Scott, Conservative leader in the Parliament, said: "The Commission must go tonight."

Some MEPs said that the resignations of Mme Cresson and Mr Santer were the minimum needed to clear the air after the report.

Whether Mr Santer resigns or others stand down separately, the credibility of the Commission President's administration was shredded by the auditors' report. The upheaval in Brussels comes at a critical time for the EU as government leaders are due to gather in Berlin next week to negotiate a major six-year reform to EU spending.

The auditors' report was also claimed last night as vindication by Paul van Buitenen, the Commission auditor who blew the whistle to the European Parliament last December on corrupt practices in the Commission and was suspended for his pains.



Jacques Santer: under pressure to clear the air

The auditors concluded that fraud and corruption had passed unnoticed while Commissioners denied that they had been aware of what was going on in their areas. "Protestations of ignorance on the part of Commissioners are tantamount to an admission of a loss of control by the political authorities over the administration that they are supposedly running, " the report said. "This loss of control implies at the outset a heavy responsibility for both the Commissioners individually and the Commission as a whole."

No individual Commissioners were accused of personal dishonesty or illegal gain in the long-awaited report by senior European legal officials, but the investigators detailed a saga of of corrupt practices and lax management.

As expected, Mme Cresson, received the harshest condemnation, for fraud carried out under her management and for appointing a dentist-friend to a well paid post for which he was not qualified.

In addition to the damning conclusions on his leadership, Mr Santer was blamed for "failing to take any meaningful interest" in a scandal involving the Commission's internal security service, an affair now under police investigation. That situation had evolved into "a state within a state," said the auditors' team, led by Andre Middlehoek, a former Dutch chief of the EU Court of Auditors.

In blunt language that shocked senior Commission officials who had expected more measured treatment, the auditors concluded that a culture of cover-up and evasion of accountability pervaded the Commission.

In conclusion, the report said: "It is becoming difficult to find anyone who has even the slightest sense of responsibility. However, that sense of responsibility is essential. It must be demonstrated, first and foremost by the Commissioners individually and the Commission as a body. The temptation to deprive the concept of responsibility of all substance is a dangerous one. That concept is the ultimate manifestation of democracy."

Among other Commissioners criticised for abuses under their administration was Manuel Marin of Spain, who headed aid programmes that suffered huge swindles.

Examining charges of nepotism, the auditors also found that Monika Wulf-Mathies, a German Commissioner, had used inappropriate procedures to recruit a member of her personal staff.

Also named for irregulaties but not strongly criticised were Emma Bonino of Italy, in charge of humanitarian affairs, and Christos Papoutsis, the Greek Commissioner.

Arrogant Cresson, page 13
Leading article, page 19



PAUL McERLANE REUTERS

Troops guarding the wreckage of Rosemary Nelson's BMW after it was blown up by a booby-trap device in Lurgan, co Armagh, yesterday

# Car bomb threatens peace process

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT



Rosemary Nelson: leading nationalist lawyer

THE car-bomb murder of a leading nationalist lawyer plunged Northern Ireland's peace process into deep crisis yesterday, and as darkness fell last night rioting erupted near the scene of the explosion in Lurgan, Co Armagh.

President Clinton was hoping to lay the groundwork for a breakthrough on IRA decommissioning when he meets Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, and David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, at the White House tomorrow, but Rosemary Nelson's killing makes it almost inconceivable that the IRA will agree to begin disarming before Good Friday's deadline.

The murder was widely blamed on loyalist paramilitaries, but Sinn Fein leaders openly accused the Royal Ulster Constabulary of collusion because Mrs Nelson had fought a number of high-profile cases against the police. Nationalists took to the streets of Lurgan and youths hurled stones and petrol bombs at police and soldiers.

"This has deepened the crisis, there is no doubt about that," said Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator. "This is a very, very serious development and all of us have to be very concerned." Sir Reg Empey, one of Mr Trimble's closest allies, said that if loyalists were responsible "all they have done is hand to the republican movement a propaganda victory on a plate".

Mrs Nelson, 40, was killed by a boobytrap device beneath her silver BMW car. It exploded seconds after she drove away from her home in a nationalist housing development on Lurgan's northern fringe at 12.40pm. Her eight-year-old daughter was at lunch in her primary school 100 yards away and her two sons were on a school trip in France.

The car slewed sideways into a hedge. Its doors and windows were blown out, scattering debris across the road. Firemen used hydraulic equipment to cut Mrs Nelson out and she was rushed to Craigavon hospital with severe leg and abdominal injuries. She died in the intensive care unit at 3.10pm with her husband at her side.

Mrs Nelson had just returned from a weekend in County Donegal and her car had stood unattended outside her house during that time.

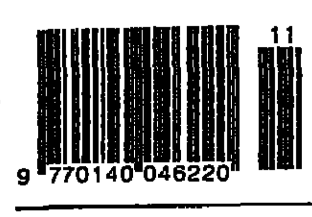
Mrs Nelson's work had made her an obvious target.

Continued page 2, col 3



Lurgan protest: masked men took to the streets




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# Police arrest Muslim cleric in dawn swoop

BY DANIEL McGRORY, STEPHEN FARRELL AND BILL FROST

THE radical Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza al-Masri, was being questioned last night by anti-terrorist squad officers after being arrested in a dawn raid at his West London home.

Scotland Yard detectives seized two other Muslim activists as part of their inquiries into terrorist activity abroad.

Yemeni authorities accuse Mr al-Masri, a half-blind veteran of the Afghan wars, of involvement in the kidnap of 16 Western tourists which ended in the death of three Britons and an Australian last December. Two of his sons, and others from his London-based Supporters of Sharia group, are on trial for a plot to bomb British targets in Aden. The Egyptian-born Mr al-Masri, 40, has denied any links with these attacks.

The three men arrested yesterday are all Egyptian. Yassir al-Serri, 39, runs the Islamic Observatory Centre in Maida Vale, northwest London, but the identity of the third man, aged 36, and from London, was not disclosed.

British Muslim leaders last night condemned the raids and held an urgent meeting to plan a protest. They are expected to demonstrate today outside Charing Cross police station where the three are held.

Lawyers for the men are demanding to know why the police staged dawn raids on their family homes. One legal source said: "Both Hamza and Serri took part in a demonstration outside the gates of Downing Street on Friday. They are very high-profile and the police could have asked to speak

Continued on page 2, col 1




*"It's plain rude — he knew everybody else would be in black tie"*

## Penguin Prince

The Prince of Wales visited Sea Lion Island, most southerly of the Falklands, which has 40,000 penguins.........Page 9

# Straw will set terms for Bulger's killers

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW is to set a new minimum jail term for the two boys convicted of murdering James Bulger in spite of a European Commission of Human Rights ruling yesterday that political involvement in sentencing breached their human rights.

The Home Secretary will make his announcement later this year as the European Court of Human Rights hears an appeal that Robert Thompson and Jon Venables were denied a fair trial. At present the boys are detained indefinitely with no minimum term laid down. The full hearing will come after yesterday's ruling that the trial in 1993 was a "severely intimidating procedure" for both boys, then aged 11.

The ruling was condemned by Denise Fergus, the mother of James, who was battered to death. She said she was sickened that the case would not go away. Sean Sexton, her solicitor, said she wished to be left alone to get on with her life.

Legal changes, page 4
Leading article, page 19

# Widow was starved

A doctor who ordered nursing home staff to starve an 85-year-old widow and to let her "slip away" was accused of serious professional muisconduct.

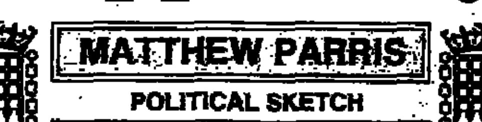
The woman died 58 days after nutrition was withdrawn, weighing 3st 12lb.........Page 3

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# No question, this can happen anywhere, sauna or later




It was good of the Home Office Minister Kate Hooey to sport a silky Thai-style kimono-cum-hostess-gown at Questions yesterday. Sadly the veteran backbench Labour MP, Joe Ashton (Bassetlaw) was not there to see her. He also missed Margaret Beckett, the House Leader, wearing a rather severe Mao-collared tunic-suit in the Oriental style, in a shade of blushing peach-blossom.

Still, the rest of us turned up. And what luck! It was Home Office Questions. Quite apart from the Ashton peregrinations, this was the chance for MPs to raise that morning's recommendation from the European Commission of Human Rights, on the James Bulger trial.

Nobody mentioned it. One wonders what planet MPs live on. Like a scratched CD, and regardless of what's actually in the news, they just keep repeating the same old themes: police numbers, bobbies-on-the-beat, drugs, animal cruelty . . .

Maybe they forgot Bulger. Each exercised a favourite bee in the bonnet. Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewes) complained to the Home Secretary that prisoners in Lewes were shouting obscenities from their cell windows at horrified shoppers below. The minister said the authorities are now closing inmates' windows. Someone should close Mr Baker's.

Still, there would surely be mention of the mystery surrounding Mr Ashton's adventures at the Thai House and Siam Sauna? Why was he there?

This sketchwriter longs to believe that Mr Ashton did have a massage, as the relaxing effect of this treatment may explain the recent liberalisation of the MP's views on other matters.

Before his visit to Northampton, Mr Ashton was against an equal age of consent, saying he feared exploitation of the young. But after Northampton he must have changed his mind because at the end of January Mr Ashton voted for 16 as the age of consent. The Stonewall gay lobbying group should send complementary Thai parlour vouchers to other moral conservatives in both Houses, in case a little massage loosens them up.

But back to the Commons, where slavering journalists placed bets on who would first raise the affair. A number of questions on the Order Paper could be twisted that way, but the most propitious was Question 11: Jenny Jones (Lab, Wolverhampton SW) wanted to know the Home Secretary's plans "to review the law on kerb-crawling". Her question, when reached, turned to a discussion on the exploitation of young women.

And nobody mentioned Northampton. The words "Thai", "massage" and "parlour" found no lips to frame them. Nobody even winked. When the MP for Northampton N, Sally Keeble (Lab) rose to ask about crime in shopping centres, shopping centres were where Ms Keeble stayed.

What a po-faced lot our MPs have become, now the Tories are no longer the target. Not a giggle, not a smile from the government benches. Labour whips will have put the screws on backbenchers, insisting there should be no mention of Mr Ashton and his travels — even by way of support.

As for the Tories, what a wealth of secret shame lay beneath their oh-so courteous discretion. "*Hodie tibi – cras mihi*" is their precautionary motto: to you today, to me tomorrow.

Were the House of Commons to be adapted for light operetta, this would have been the point at which the entire massed choir of Conservative backbenchers rose in a soft background chorus: "There but for the grace of God go we," as, to the fore, Ron Davies belts out *I am what I am*; and the Government front bench looks sheepishly away.

# Last-ditch effort to delay ban on duty-free

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN will join Germany in a last-ditch attempt to delay the end of duty-free sales for travellers inside Europe after European Union ministers failed yesterday to come close to agreeing to delay the abolition of the industry.

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, will raise the prospects for a last-minute reprieve when he meets Tony Blair in London today to prepare for next week's EU summit in Berlin. However, German officials were pessimistic about the chances of success after strong opposition from the finance ministers of six EU states in Brussels yesterday.

A unanimous vote by all 15 governments is needed to renew discussion of the decision, taken in 1991, to end duty-free sales for travellers crossing the EU's internal sea and air frontiers on July 1. Demonstrators in Brussels and a Channel port stoppage by ferry workers yesterday failed to sway the determination of ministers from Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Holland, Portugal and Italy to end the perk.

"We tried to reach a unanimous agreement but, on the contrary, there was a majority against," said Werner Müller, the German Economics Minister. "I do not have much hope. The majority is against and the Commission does not want it," he added.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, acknowledged that prospects were fading for extending the deadline, but the Government was still worried about the impact to jobs and the likely confusion over how to apply duties in sea and air crossings between states with widely differing tax levels.

EU officials said a decision would be needed by the end of this month if the industry were to be reprieved because of the time required to reverse the existing legislation.

Mario Monti, the Commissioner responsible for taxation, repeated the Commission's determination to end what it considers to be an anomaly in the EU's customs-free single market. "There is no such thing as a duty-free purchase because the taxes are paid by other people and we must put an end to a situation where ordinary European citizens are paying for other people's duty free."

**PROTEST STRIKE**

**Tourists and lorry-drivers found their travel plans in chaos as French port-workers in Calais went on 24-hour strike in protest at the planned abolition of duty-free shopping, which they say will cost jobs. Ferry-workers blocked the port and halted traffic through the Channel Tunnel: the blockades were lifted at 3pm. Workers also marched through Calais and blockaded a motorway in Rennes.**




Rosemary Nelson, with folder, after Downing Street talks on the Portadown standoff

# Nationalists' heroine had dangerous foes

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ROSEMARY NELSON had received many deaths threats in recent years, but had ignored them all. Nobody would bother killing her, she used to say.

But Mrs Nelson was an obvious target for loyalist extremists. She had represented the nationalist residents of Portadown's Garvaghy Road, who have refused to let the Orange Order complete its annual Drumcree church parade.

Another client was Colin Duffy, who was accused of murdering two RUC officers in 1997, but had charges against him dropped, and she had also represented the family of Robert Hamill, a young Catholic man beaten to death by loyalists in Portadown in 1997 in full view of the police.

"She took up issues no one else would touch," said Delores Kelly, deputy mayor of Craigavon.

Republicans were quick to assert that Mrs Nelson was also an obvious target for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, saying that her murder was a repeat of that of Pat Finucane, the nationalist solicitor killed ten years ago by loyalists acting, republicans insist, in collusion with the security forces. Last month Mrs Nelson joined a high-profile campaign for a judicial inquiry into Mr Finucane's murder.

Mrs Nelson had lodged numerous complaints against the RUC, and accused officers of spitting in her face and hitting her with a riot shield.

Ann Cadwallader, a Belfast journalist and close friend of Mrs Nelson, said that the lawyer had worried only about the safety of her clients.

"She was a very angry person and threw herself life and soul into her work. She believed passionately in upholding the rule of law and fighting for justice for her clients," Ms Cadwallader said.

Mrs Nelson was raised in Lurgan, educated at Queens University in Belfast and married to Paul Nelson, an accountant. Their two sons are aged 13 and 11, and their daughter eight.

# Marks & Spencer pulls GM products off shelf

BY NICK NUTTALL AND PHILIP WEBSTER

MARKS & SPENCER announced yesterday that it is taking all genetically modified foods off its shelves. In response to consumer concern, it was removing all GM ingredients from St Michael products.

A spokesman said: "Although we believe there is a place for genetic modification, customers are concerned about the speed at which these developments are being pushed through." M&S would continue to monitor developments in GM technology "and will consider any opportunities which bring direct benefit to our customers".

The move came amid further indications from the Government that genetically modified crops are unlikely to be planted commercially for at least three years. Although the industry accused the Government of trying to pressurise it into a three-year freeze, ministers confirmed privately that that would be the outcome of discussions going on with leading manufacturers.

The day after Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister, welcomed the prospect of a voluntary deal with the industry, seed companies reacted with surprise to suggestions that they had already agreed to a moratorium. Some of them, including Novartis and Zeneca, denied they had put commercial exploitation on hold. A spokesman for AgrEvo, which has a herbicide tolerant oil seed ready for farmers, said yesterday: "It is totally untrue to suggest we have done a secret deal." The industry suspects someone in government or from a pressure group planted reports at the weekend to put pressure on companies to agree to a three-year ban.

On Sunday, the Government also denied that a "secret" deal had been done. However, ministers are hoping for an arrangement under which the companies will agree that for environmental and political reasons there will be no planting for three years. Senior ministers confirmed that Environment Department officials were in talks with the industry and suggested that the likeliest result would be an effective agreement not to plant the crops before 2002.

Tony Blair has made plain that there will be no ban but it is clear that ministers do not expect to have conclusive results from tests to allow planting for three years. A three-year ban would take some of the heat off ministers by satisfying the demands being made by green groups, water firms and English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

## Peers undermine £2bn rebate battle

A parliamentary committee undermined Tony Blair's battle to save Britain's £2 billion rebate from the European Union. With Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, due at Downing Street today to prepare for next week's EU summit on the budget, the all-party House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities suggested Mr Blair should put the cashback deal into the negotiations to help to reform the budget. Mr Blair's press spokesman suggested last night that the Government's position was uncompromising. Even with the rebate, Britain remained the fifth largest contributor and was only the tenth richest EU country, he said.

## Games 'need cash aid'

Organisers of the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester told MPs they needed more help from the Government to stage the event. The Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee heard that the cost of staging the ten-day games had risen from an original estimate of £58 million to £70-£90 million. There are growing fears that, without more government support, the event could lose millions of pounds, with local council taxpayers picking up the bill.

## 'Runny nose' secret

Scientists have discovered what causes a chronically runny nose, one symptom of a condition that leads to thousands of deaths. They have isolated the "biological trigger" that causes uncontrolled mucus production in the lungs and airways. Victims of hypersecretory diseases such as cystic fibrosis and chronic bronchitis literally drown in their own secretions. American scientists believe that they will now be able to control the condition through drugs.

## Life sentence for rapist

A "psychopathic" teenager was told he will spend the rest of his life in prison after he admitted raping a 92-year-old widow. Philip Green, 19, of Llanishen, Cardiff, attacked the woman, an Austrian Jew who had fled to Britain during the Nazi occupation, after sniffing 13 tins of butane lighter fuel and breaking into the woman's house. Green admitted two charges of rape, aggravated burglary and grievous bodily harm with intent.

## Crying clue to Aids

Tears and saliva contain a powerful antidote to HIV, scientists have found. The discovery, by scientists at the New York University Medical Centre, may explain why the virus cannot be transmitted by saliva and could pave the way for an entirely new type of treatment for the disease. The finding comes from a five-year study into why the urine of pregnant women is effective in controlling the reproduction of the HIV virus in an infected person.

## Boyzone baby

The Boyzone pop singer Ronan Keating, 22, became a father yesterday. His wife, Yvonne, a 25-year-old model, gave birth to a boy weighing 10lb 4oz at Mount Carmel Hospital, Dublin. The couple have named the baby Jack. Keating said: "Both mum and baby are both healthy and strong, a wee bit tired but very happy." The couple married in the Caribbean last year after a short romance, although they have been friends for many years.

# Cleric held

Continued from page 1

to them at any time, so why burst into bedrooms when their children are there. Why the heavy-handed tactics?" Seven of Mr al-Masri's children, all under 12, were inside the terraced house at Shepherds Bush when it was raided.

His Moroccan second wife and other women relatives were led away by police as forensic experts moved in.

Other detectives towed away his left-hand drive car, equipped with attachments to enable him to drive using his metal arms. He had lost both hands in a bomb blast in Afghanistan.

Mr al-Serri, 39, who is also known as Abu Ammar, claimed he was dragged from his bedroom after police broke down his door.

Al-Masri: seized at dawn

Scotland Yard described the arrests as "peaceful" and had been planned for some time. "It is part of an ongoing operation into terrorism abroad."

# Car bomb threat to peace

Continued from page 1

She represented the nationalist residents of Portadown's Garvaghy Road, who blocked the Orange Order's annual Drumcree parade last July, and met Tony Blair at Downing Street on the residents' behalf last month.

She represented Colin Duffy, a republican who was accused of murdering two policemen in Lurgan in 1997, but against whom charges were dropped. She represented the family of Robert Hamill, a Portadown Catholic beaten to death by loyalists while the police allegedly looked on, and was in the process of prosecuting the police over the case. She had also filed numerous formal complaints of police harassment and intimidation.

Suspicion immediately fell on two loyalist splinter groups, the Orange Volunteers and Red Hand Defenders, who have been attacking Catholic homes with primitive devices in recent weeks. But Mr McGuinness said this bomb was very sophisticated and claimed the security forces had systematically targeted human rights campaigners.

Within two hours of Mrs Nelson's death, a crowd of 200 had marched from the town's nationalist Kilwilkee estate to Lurgan's police station where John O'Dowd, a Sinn Fein councillor, said those looking for Mrs Nelson's murderers "should look no further".

Mr Blair condemned what he called a "disgusting act of brutality". He said: "The sole aim of the murderers is to remove any chance of reconciliation. They will not be allowed to succeed."

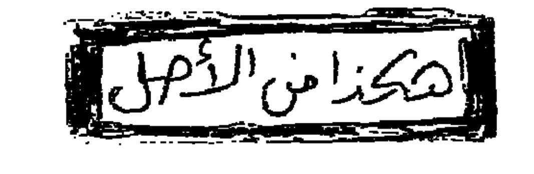
Most of Northern Ireland's political leaders were in Washington for what will now be muted celebrations of St Patrick's Day tomorrow. Without a downpayment of IRA weapons before Good Friday, Mr Trimble will not admit Sinn Fein to government and the peace accord faces collapse. Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president, drew parallels with the 1989 murder of Pat Finucane, another prominent republican solicitor killed by loyalists with the alleged collusion of the security forces.

## Dr Philip Sugarman

A report ("Psychiatrist gave warning of Stone's killing fantasies", October 24) on the conviction of Michael Stone for the murders of Lin and Megan Russell stated that a few days before the murders Stone had visited the Trevor Gibbens Unit in Maidstone, where he was an outpatient under the care of Dr Philip Sugarman, and told Dr Sugarman he had been fantasising about killing children. The article also stated that, concerned that he might harm someone, Stone had asked to be admitted to the unit, but was refused a bed. We now understand, and accept, that both statements were incorrect. In fact, Stone did not even see Dr Sugarman at that particular time. We apologise unreservedly to Dr Sugarman for any implication that he had failed in his duty to take the necessary steps to protect the public from the danger that Stone posed, and for any embarrassment which Dr Sugarman has been caused.







# Doctor told nurses to starve widow

**Patient took 58 days to die, writes Michael Horsnell**

A DOCTOR who ordered nursing home staff to starve an 85-year-old woman and to let her "slip away" was accused of serious professional misconduct yesterday.

Some staff defied him and continued to give Mary Ormerod her prescribed food supplement until the supply ran out. But she died 58 days after the nutrition had been withdrawn.

Mrs Ormerod, a widow, was said to have been "skin and bone" when she died in August 1995 at Oxford House nursing home, Preston, weighing 3st 12lb.

Ken Taylor, 51, instructed nurses and care assistants to withdraw the supplement Fresubin two months earlier, the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council was told.

Mrs Ormerod, a bedridden patient who had suffered a series of strokes, had not lost her swallowing reflex and communicated by squeezing the nurses' hands. They were said to be dismayed at the doctor's instruction and demanded that he put it in writing.

After the death of Mrs Ormerod, a Roman Catholic with four daughters, a nurse reported the case to police. They conducted a murder inquiry on behalf of the coroner, but the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to take action.

Rosalind Foster, counsel for the GMC, told the hearing that she was hoping to "avoid terms like euthanasia" because it was a useful one for lawyers.

Dr Taylor, a former nurse who qualified as a doctor in 1974 and ran Ashton health centre in Preston, is accused of knowing that the withdrawal of the food supplement would or might hasten the death of his patient. She was said to have been in a stable condition before the withdrawal, although she could not speak or move her limbs.

The doctor told staff that fluids should be administered, but, when he stopped the Fresubin, which was given orally by syringe, June Bleasdale, the deputising matron, asked him to record his decision in the patient's nursing care plan.

Ms Bleasdale, who will be giving evidence, told him that she disagreed with his instruction and would have no part in carrying in out.

Dr Taylor, who denies misconduct, admits that he did not seek a second opinion or prior approval of the courts, when he allegedly should have done so. He also stands accused of failing to reassess Mrs Ormerod's condition during the eight weeks that she survived.

Miss Foster said: "It is not possible to detect what it was that caused Dr Taylor to order the withdrawal of nutrition." Dr Taylor told police: "In view of her medical condition and history of strokes, I fully expected her to have another stroke which could prove fatal." He gave the cause of death as brain failure.

In a letter to the GMC, he said: "I believe that my care was ethical and appropriate. I did not kill [Mrs Ormerod] and my actions did not unethically nor callously lead to her death.

"I unequivocally state that at no time did any nurses or other persons disagree to my face or in my hearing about the way I was treating her."

He added: "I judged that feeding was inappropriate and believed that the time had come to let her slip away. When she did not die within days, I was perturbed."

Christina Atkinson, who was matron at the time, said she was "aghast" when, eight months before Mrs Ormerod's death, Dr Taylor initially suggested the food be stopped. She opposed the idea and he allowed her to carry on with the feed.

The hearing continues today.



Ken Taylor: denies acting unethically

# MP says officers leaked sex raid story

By Paul Wilkinson and Philip Webster

THE Labour MP allegedly caught in a Thai massage parlour during a police raid denied yesterday that he had taken part in or paid for sexual services. He accused police officers of leaking details of the incident to the press.

Joe Ashton, the 65-year-old member for Bassetlaw in the East Midlands, said that his lawyers were considering asking the Police Complaints Authority to investigate how the incident at the Thai House and Siam Sauna in Northampton appeared in the Sunday papers.

His statement, issued from his home, however, failed to explain what he was doing at the parlour.

The outspoken backbencher denied reports suggesting that he had given a false name and address when questioned and that he was traced through his car registration. Three other men are on bail after their arrest last November in the police raid on the premises, situated between a church and a fish and chip shop.

A number of women were also detained by officers, who were investigating complaints that some had been forced to work on the premises against their will. Seven have been deported to Thailand. Five others who are legally entitled to live in Britain were released.

Yesterday Mr Ashton, once an award-winning journalist and today a campaigner for tougher laws on privacy to protect the lives of public figures, broke the silence he had observed since the reports began circulating at the weekend.

He came to the gate of his house in Sheffield where he lives with Margaret, his wife of 42 years, to issue the brief printed statement.



Joe Ashton outside his home yesterday. "I did not pay for sexual services," he said

# Woman sues over surprise baby

By Joanna Bale

A MOTHER is claiming £200,000 compensation from a gynaecologist who prescribed a hormone drug to regulate her menstrual cycle after allegedly failing to detect that she was pregnant.

By the time Pauline Mattacks, 46, discovered that she was expecting a baby, it was too late for an abortion and she gave birth to a boy, Simon, now three.

Ms Mattacks told the High Court yesterday that she would have had a termination had Chineze Otigbah, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, diagnosed the pregnancy when she went to see her in January 1995 complaining of irregular and heavy periods.

Dr Otigbah prescribed norethisterone, which can cause masculinisation of female foetuses. Ms Mattacks, then 42, took the drug for three months until her pregnancy was confirmed by a test by her GP.

Her pregnancy, at 24 weeks, was too far advanced for termination. Her son was born healthy that August. Ms Mattacks, who also has a son aged 11, lives on income support. She is claiming the cost of bringing up the boy.

She said that her relationship with his father had been "casual" and that she had used a contraceptive only "occasionally" because she had thought she might be menopausal. When she missed periods, she had two home pregnancy tests which were negative. She ascribed symptoms including weight gain to the drug.

Dr Otigbah told the court: "If there was any iota of doubt in my mind about whether she was pregnant I would have done the pregnancy test."

She and the Royal Hospitals NHS Trust deny liability. The case continues.

# Clerk stole money to take work courses

By Simon de Bruxelles

A COUNCIL clerk who embezzled nearly £18,000 and spent some of the money on courses to improve her promotion prospects was yesterday given a suspended jail sentence.

Hayley Latham, 24, a payroll clerk with South Pembrokeshire County Council in Wales, created "ghost" employees and pocketed their salaries for almost a year.

She had been promoted from a typing job to become secretary to the council's head of personnel, but when she was transferred to the finance department without any training she felt "at sea", Swansea Crown Court was told.

Latham, from Haverfordwest, admitted five counts of theft and was given an 18-month suspended sentence.

Her barrister, Andrew Clemes, said: "She knows that she acted dishonestly and she felt some relief when she was discovered."

Passing sentence, Robert Britton, the Recorder, said that it was "an extremely serious case".

# Stuntman flies into a real-life drama

By Simon de Bruxelles

A STUNTMAN who once tried to jump the River Avon in a car towing a caravan had an unscheduled brush with death when his aircraft's engine failed while he was being examined for a pilot's licence.

Andrew Aish was flying solo above the Black Mountains in Wales on the last leg of a 100-mile test flight when his Cessna began to go down.

Mr Aish, 41, from Taunton in Somerset, hedge-hopped into a field where he crash-landed at over 90 mph. The £25,000 aircraft, owned by Haverfordwest School of Flying, was a write-off after losing its undercarriage and then skidding nose first through a row of trees. With fuel leaking from the tanks, Mr Aish made a hasty exit and walked away with cuts and bruises.

He said crashing the Cessna was much more frightening than plunging into the Avon at Tewksbury and having to be rescued by divers. "I could see the trees rushing towards me. There was no way I could avoid them. I thought it was curtains.

"Most pilots go through their flying careers without facing such an emergency. It's happened to me after just 60 hours flying and when I was within two hours of qualifying."

He reported the accident from a farmhouse and police took him to Shobdon airfield. He was collected by another aircraft from the flying school and took the controls on the flight back to Haverfordwest.

He had been waiting since December for suitable weather for his cross-country solo flight, which involves navigating a triangular route with landings at two airfields, and plans to retake the test tomorrow.



Aish: crashed into a field and through a row of trees

# War crimes trial is told of deaths of 15 Jewish women

By Tim Jones

SWEEPING his arms from side to side as though discharging a submachine gun, an elderly grey-haired man yesterday described how as a youth he hid in bushes and watched about 15 half- naked women being murdered.

Fedor Zan, 76, told Britain's first war crimes trial he had been walking through the woods near the village of Domachevo, Belarus, when he heard the sounds of crying and shouting. As he crouched in his hiding place, he said, he saw Anthony Sawoniuk order the women to undress as he stood over them armed with a weapon.

When they were down to their underwear, he said, Mr Sawoniuk, whom he knew as Andrusha, ordered them to turn around and face a pre-dug pit.

Mimicking the sounds of rapid fire, he added: "After they had turned, he immediately mowed them down with the machine gun and they fell into the pit. Once that had happened, I ran off."

Andrusha, he said, was on his own as he murdered the wailing women. "I recognised him by his size and his face. He was famous by that time. And it was light, the sun was still in the sky."

The mass execution, he said, took place a few days after the main massacre in the village in September 1942 when 2,900 men, women and children had been rounded up from the ghetto and herded to an area known as the sand hills where they were stripped and shot.

He said that Andrusha, who is alleged to have taken part in a search and kill operation to round up the Jews who escaped death on that day, was one of the first to join the local police force established by the Germans after they had occupied the village in 1941.

As Mr Zan gave his evidence through an interpreter, Mr Sawoniuk, 78, gave no indication he had ever known him. Mr Sawoniuk, a retired British Rail ticket collector from South London, denies four charges of murder. The trial, at the Old Bailey, continues.

The jury was reduced to 11 members yesterday, after a woman juror fell ill and was taken to hospital.

# Fundraiser is sacked in dispute over cathedral restaurant

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

THE head of visitor services at Salisbury Cathedral has been sacked for "gross misconduct" in a dispute about fundraising plans.

Barry Mason, who successfully boosted income from visitors by £350,000 — 40 per cent — in 12 months, is appealing to the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev David Stancliffe, the cathedral visitor, to overrule the dismissal.

Mr Mason, 49, who joined the cathedral a year ago, was sacked after he defied orders from the Dean and Chapter to keep plans for an expansion of the cathedral restaurant a closely guarded secret. He discussed the proposals informally with architects and planners before a chapter meeting next week.

Mr Mason, who has previously worked for the Tate, the National Portrait Gallery and the Museum of London, had aroused earlier criticism from some of the cathedral hierarchy by introducing an alcohol licence to the restaurant.

The Plummery, a temporary structure on the south side of the cathedral, currently seats 30 people and there are sometimes queues when the cathedral, which attracts 700,000 visitors a year, is busy. Under the refurbishment plans there would be seating for 240.

Mr Watson admitted last night that he was aware that he had broken an edict from the Dean, the Very Rev Derek Watson, and the Chapter to keep the plans confidential. But he claimed he had been motivated by enthusiasm and was dumbfounded by the response. "I thought gross misconduct meant stealing, or an assault, or a sexual impropriety," he said. "I had no idea it could be used to get rid of someone on the grounds they were doing their job rather too well."

As head of visitor services, Mr Mason helped to boost visitor income from about £1 million to £1.4 million. Income from The Plummery accounts for about £30,000.

Mr Mason recently offered places in the cathedral tower for a champagne breakfast to see the summer solstice in June and a champagne brunch to witness the solar eclipse in August. He described the plans for the restaurant, by the architects Munchen, Beck and Marshall, as visionary.

A cathedral spokesman said of the dismissal: "The Chapter office is satisfied that all proper procedures were strictly adhered to both leading up to and during the disciplinary hearing."

# Bulger ruling may force court changes

## The Home Office will contest Euro judges' view that boys were denied a fair trial, reports Richard Ford

BRITAIN could be forced to change the way it tries juveniles accused of serious crimes after the European Commission of Human Rights ruled yesterday that the boys convicted of murdering James Bulger were denied a fair trial.

The commission, based in Strasbourg, said that the way Robert Thompson and Jon Venables faced a full adult Crown Court meant they had been prevented from effectively participating in their trial. But it rejected claims that their trial amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment outlawed by the European Convention on Human Rights.

Thompson and Venables, both now aged 16, are to take their appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in a hearing expected later this year. The court has no power to overturn their convictions for murder.

Last night, as the Home Office said it would contest the ruling, James's mother, Denise Fergus, condemned the commission's decision and accused the boys of trying to get away from their "vile and monstrous" crime on a legal technicality. She said: "They say they were unfairly treated — why didn't they stop the case when it was going on, instead of waiting six years before they say it?

"I don't think they were unfairly treated in any way. They had top lawyers, workers, care workers; they had the best of everything. So how can they say they were unfairly treated?"

Thompson and Venables were aged ten when they abducted James, who was two, from a shopping centre in Bootle on Merseyside in 1993. They battered him to death and left his body on a railway line. The boys, both from Merseyside, were convicted of murder at Preston Crown Court and sentenced to be held at Her Majesty's pleasure.

The trial judge set a minimum tariff of eight years for "retribution and deterrence" increased by the then Lord Chief Justice to ten years and by Michael Howard, then the Home Secretary, to 15 years. Mr Howard was later declared to have acted unlawfully and the tariff was set aside.

Thompson and Venables are currently detained in local authority secure accommodation in the North of England. Later this year Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is to set a new minimum jail term.

The commission ruled by 14 votes to five that the boys had not received a fair trial in 1993. "It considers that the public trial process in an adult court with attendant publicity must be regarded in the case of an 11-year-old child as a severely intimidating procedure," the ruling said.

It also upheld by 18 votes to one a complaint by the boys over the way in which their sentences had been increased by Mr Howard. It said his decision was a breach of their human rights because it had been taken by a politician and not an impartial tribunal.

If the full European Court of Human Rights backs the commission's rulings, the Government will be under pressure to change the way it tries and sentences juveniles convicted of murder, manslaughter, rape and other serious offences.

It could lead to juveniles charged with serious offences being tried in the more informal surroundings of the youth courts and to the Home Secretary no longer being able to set a minimum term to be served in jail.

Mr Straw said last night that the Government had no plans to alter the way juveniles charged with serious crimes were dealt with, or the way tariffs — minimum terms — were set by ministers.

Rex Makin, the solicitor for James's father, Ralph, said: "How the Bulger family are expected to understand this decision is beyond comprehension. It's another turn of the knife in the wound of the parents, who have no opportunity to come to terms with the grief every time there are movements in this saga."

John Dickinson, the Sheffield-based solicitor representing Venables, said he was encouraged by the ruling. "I think the sentence and the trial proceedings raised substantial issues which couldn't be considered in this country," he said.

Roger Scruton, page 18

**LINKS**

www.dhcour.coe.fr The European Court of Human Rights's website carries the European Commission of Human Rights's report into the boys' cases


Thompson and Venables at Preston Crown Court in 1993. The commission said that the boys were denied a fair trial

## Rest of Europe relies on family hearings

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE trial of the two boys accused of murdering James Bulger prompted almost universal criticism from countries where children are not tried in adult criminal courts. In continental Europe, children under the age of 14 are dealt with by family courts.

The age of criminal responsibility is also usually higher than in Britain, where it is ten. In France the age is 13; in Germany, Austria and Italy 14; in the Scandinavian countries 15; and in Spain and Portugal 16. In eastern Europe it ranges between 14 and 16.

A report in 1996 by Paul Cavadino, now policy director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, urged a change in the way children who kill are dealt with. It found that, on average, 25 people a year under the age of 18 are found guilty of homicide in the Crown Courts. Mr Cavadino said of the Bulger trial: "Most foreign commentators were astonished that two 11-year-olds should be dealt with by a public, adult-style hearing in the full glare of media coverage."

Critics questioned at the time whether such young children were able to comprehend the complexities of a lengthy criminal prosecution and trial; whether they should have appeared in the full glare of media coverage of Crown Court proceedings; whether their decision not to give evidence arose from fear of speaking in such a public forum; and whether it was right to lift reporting restrictions after conviction, allowing their names and photographs to be widely publicised.

The British system of sentencing was also strikingly different from the rest of Europe, Mr Cavadino added. No other European country has indeterminate sentences that are not judicially supervised. In France and The Netherlands, such sentences are reviewed either annually or biennially by the judiciary, which can order the young person's conditional release.

According to a report by Justice, the human rights group, maximum sentences on children for homicide are lower elsewhere. In Austria and Germany, 15 years can be imposed in exceptional circumstances and in Sweden 18 years. But in Spain there is a maximum two-year educational and rehabilative programme for under-16s and a maximum of 12 years for 16 to 18-year-olds.

Mr Cavadino said the age of responsibility should be raised to at least 14 and, below that, children should be dealt with in a family proceedings court. For older children, hearings should be in private, before a specially trained judge.

## Formal rules were relaxed for boys' trial

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the youngest defendants in a murder case in England this century walked into the Preston Crown Court they were surrounded by the full grandeur of the English criminal law in action.

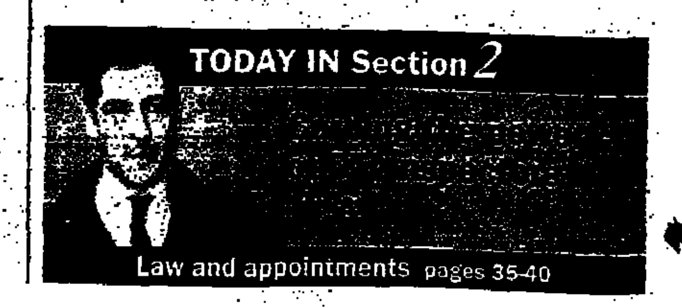
But the court authorities had made several concessions to the age of Jon Venables and Robert Thompson. A platform had been built in the dock to enable the trial judge to see the two 11-year-old, and extra chairs had been placed in the dock to allow a social worker to sit next to each child.

Venables and Thompson, ten at the time of the murder and 11 when brought to trial, had also been allowed to visit the High Edwardian-style courtroom previously in an attempt to make it less intimidating, and their lawyers and social workers had also prepared them for the trial by explaining court processes and where the judge and jury would sit. Each day of the hearing began half an hour later than usual and finished 45 minutes earlier. But the boys still had to walk the 24 steps from the cells to the dock. Mr Justice Morland, the trial judge, was fully wigged and in a scarlet robe. The barristers were also wigged and in traditional black gowns.


Mr Justice Morland: eased court conditions

The bench was situated so that the judge sat directly facing the dock in the middle of the court. To the right of the dock sat the parents, who were close enough to touch at least one of the children. On the other side of the court, seats had been reserved for James Bulger's parents.

If the boys had been dealt with at a youth court, the procedures would have been more informal and the public, though not the media, would have been banned from attending. The boys would probably not have sat in a dock but in the well of the court behind their lawyers, with their parents beside or behind them, and the lawyers would have not have worn wigs or gowns. A magistrate would have explained the proceedings to them and there would have been regular breaks.



# I got it wrong, says Lewis fight judge

## Briton 'shocked' to find he had awarded draw, reports Adam Sherwin

THE British judge who awarded the draw that denied Lennox Lewis the undisputed world heavyweight boxing title said yesterday that he had made an "honest mistake".

Larry O'Connell said he felt that Lewis had beaten Evander Holyfield on points in New York, and that he had been shocked to be told that his scorecard added up to a draw.

He admitted that his scorecard did not accurately represent his analysis of the fight. "It was marginal but I felt that Lewis had won with his jab alone. It was as much a surprise to me as anyone else to be told that my own card showed a draw. My heart sank," Mr O'Connell said. The American judge gave the fight to Holyfield; the other judge, from South Africa, had Lewis as clear winner.

Mr O'Connell handed in his score for the rounds at the conclusion of each one. He did not keep a running total because he believed that would be "unethical", hindering an objective analysis of each round.

Mr O'Connell, an engraver from Hartley, Kent, who has officiated at boxing bouts for 23 years, apologised to the British boxer for denying him the title that he had coveted for so long. "I feel very sorry for Lennox and for all the fans who paid money to see the fight."

> 'I feel very sorry for Lennox and for all the fans who paid money to see the fight'

The 60-year-old grandfather was visibly upset that his actions had brought the wrath of the sporting world on his head. "What is killing me is that I am British and we had a chance of getting an undisputed British world heavyweight champion. But I have to do the job as I see it."

He had strong words for Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, who had said that the decision was "very damaging" to boxing. "To hell with Tony Banks. I think they gave him the job to keep him quiet," Mr O'Connell said.

Awarding a draw was not in his nature, he added. "People think you are sitting on the fence by not giving a result. I feel that you should be man enough to give a decision, but I did give a draw."

Mr O'Connell said that there had been no attempt by Don King, the flamboyant fight promoter who stands to make millions of dollars from a rematch, to influence his scoring. "I did not speak to Mr King throughout the time I was in New York," he said. "I am a man of integrity and I do not belong to anybody or any promoter. If they don't like it, they can stuff it."

The judge, who was a boxer for 12 years, questioned Lewis's cautious tactics during the fight, which he said had made it harder to award rounds to him. "Lennox waited too long to exploit opportunities that his left jab had made.

"There was one round where Holyfield didn't know where the next punch was coming from. But Lennox stood back and let Holyfield throw the next punch."

Mr O'Connell did not score rounds strictly according to the number of punches that connected, the statistics that have been widely quoted to prove Lewis's superiority. "I look for 'effective aggression' — which fighter is hitting harder. There are no hard and fast rules to judging," he said.

Lewis's task, page 52

CHRIS EADES



Larry O'Connell, outside his home yesterday, said he had to do the job as he saw it

# New York may hold criminal inquiry

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK authorities have begun investigating the Lewis-Holyfield draw. Eliot Spitzer, the New York State Attorney-General, was said to be deciding whether the facts merited a criminal investigation.

Mr Spitzer's spokesman said: "He has reached no determination yet, but he is concerned by the public impression that there was something flawed about the match." Mr Spitzer chairs a national task force of state attorneys-general that is investigating boxing, and last month held three days of hearings in the city on the poor state of the sport.

George Pataki, the New York Governor, called on the New York State Athletic Commission, which regulates the sport, to "take a hard look" at the judging.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, a sports fan, said: "This is a travesty and it will hurt boxing." He feared that Britons at the fight would think New Yorkers were "a bunch of cheats".

# Ahern the poet takes Ireland by surprise

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BERTIE AHERN, the Irish Prime Minister, was revealed last night as a talented poet with the publication of a new collection of work by Irish writers, artists, politicians and pop stars.

Mr Ahern penned a poem entitled *Whoseday Is It Today?* for a diary aimed at raising £4 million for the Irish Hospice Foundation. The quality of the 15-line poem has surprised literary critics, who were impressed by his grasp of language.



Mr Ahern's work won the praise of experts

Eilean Ni Chuilleanain, head of English at Trinity College, Dublin, said that Mr Ahern displayed "great energy and thoughtfulness". Brian Cosgrove, head of English at Maynooth University, said he was "delighted to know we have a Taoiseach who is aware of the world of the imagination as well as the world of politics".

Mr Ahern's poem is one of 366 pieces of poetry, prose and artwork contributed to *The Whoseday Book*. Bono, the lead singer of U2, compares being born to the bright lights and adrenalin rush of a stage appearance, and Bob Geldof submitted a poem with the postscript "Will this do?". Christy Moore, the folk singer, contributed a poem about Veronica Guerin, the murdered journalist, and Marianne Faithfull a poem about arguing parents.

In addition to works by the writers Iris Murdoch, Maeve Binchy and Roddy Doyle there are also contributions from Ulster politicians. John Hume, the SDLP leader, reprinted his 1979 speech on "unity in diversity", while Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, describes a hurling match.

The linen-bound book was the brainchild of John Waters, an *Irish Times* columnist.

It goes on sale in Ireland today and will be presented to President Clinton in Washington tomorrow. Organisers hope to sell 150,000 copies in the US and 50,000 in Ireland. Sales in Britain have yet to be organised.

**WHOSEDAY IS IT TODAY?**

Whoseday is it today?
to cry arrive, or slip away
From shadowland to light and then to dark,
Each one to make their presence felt
And mark.
Deep in the ancient spring of Irishness
Great talents spin and bubble to the top
In glint of ey, in tart-tang tongue
And sweet euphonious ear —
To sing what we hold dear, and
Celebrate from year to year.
New ship upon the bay, new boat
On old Styx way
Penny-bridge for your thoughts.
Whose day is it today?

BERTIE AHERN

# Sex taunts 'drove out lesbian'

BY CHRISTINE MIDDAP

A LESBIAN teacher was driven out of her job by six years of abuse and teasing from students about her sexuality, an employment tribunal was told yesterday.

Shirley Pearce, 51, said that she was told by the head to "grit my teeth and face it" after she complained, and that the abuse continued until she retired through ill-health.

Ms Pearce, who taught science at Mayfield Secondary School in Portsmouth for more than 20 years, is claiming sexual discrimination against the governors. She says that they did not take effective action to stop the abuse.

"It was as if their attitude was almost, well, you are a lesbian, you should expect these comments," she said at the hearing in Southampton.

The tribunal was told that one boy, who had suggested that lesbians should be prosecuted, apologised after he was spoken to by the deputy head. Another pupil was suspended after cat food was left in Ms Pearce's jacket pocket.

The hearing continues.

# Teacher is jailed for pub brawl

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A TEACHER praised in a recent Ofsted report was jailed for 12 months by Liverpool Crown Court yesterday for causing a drunken brawl in which a friend lost an eye.

An argument had erupted over football while he and two friends were watching a televised match in a pub.

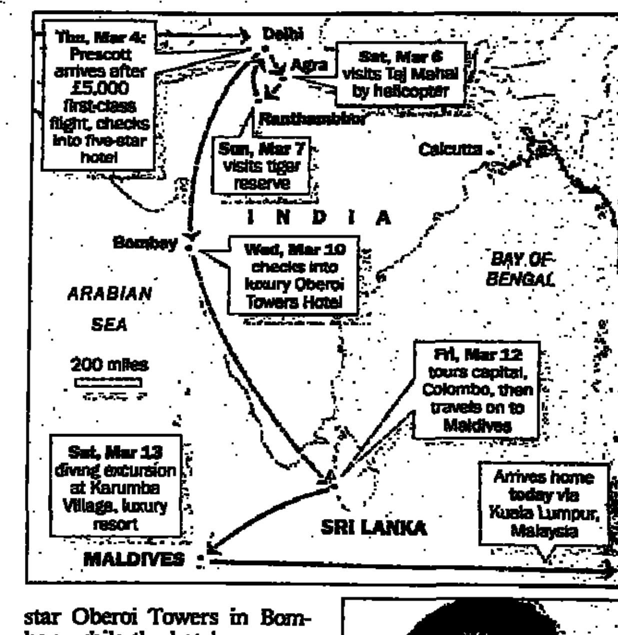
Jonathan Rice, 29, who teaches business studies, was described in court as a magnificent teacher who commanded the support of his colleagues at All Saints Roman Catholic High School in Kirkby, Merseyside. A petition in his favour was signed by 800 pupils.

But Judge David Maddison told Rice that the offences, involving a premeditated and protracted attack on two men in a public place, were so serious that there was no alternative to a custodial sentence.

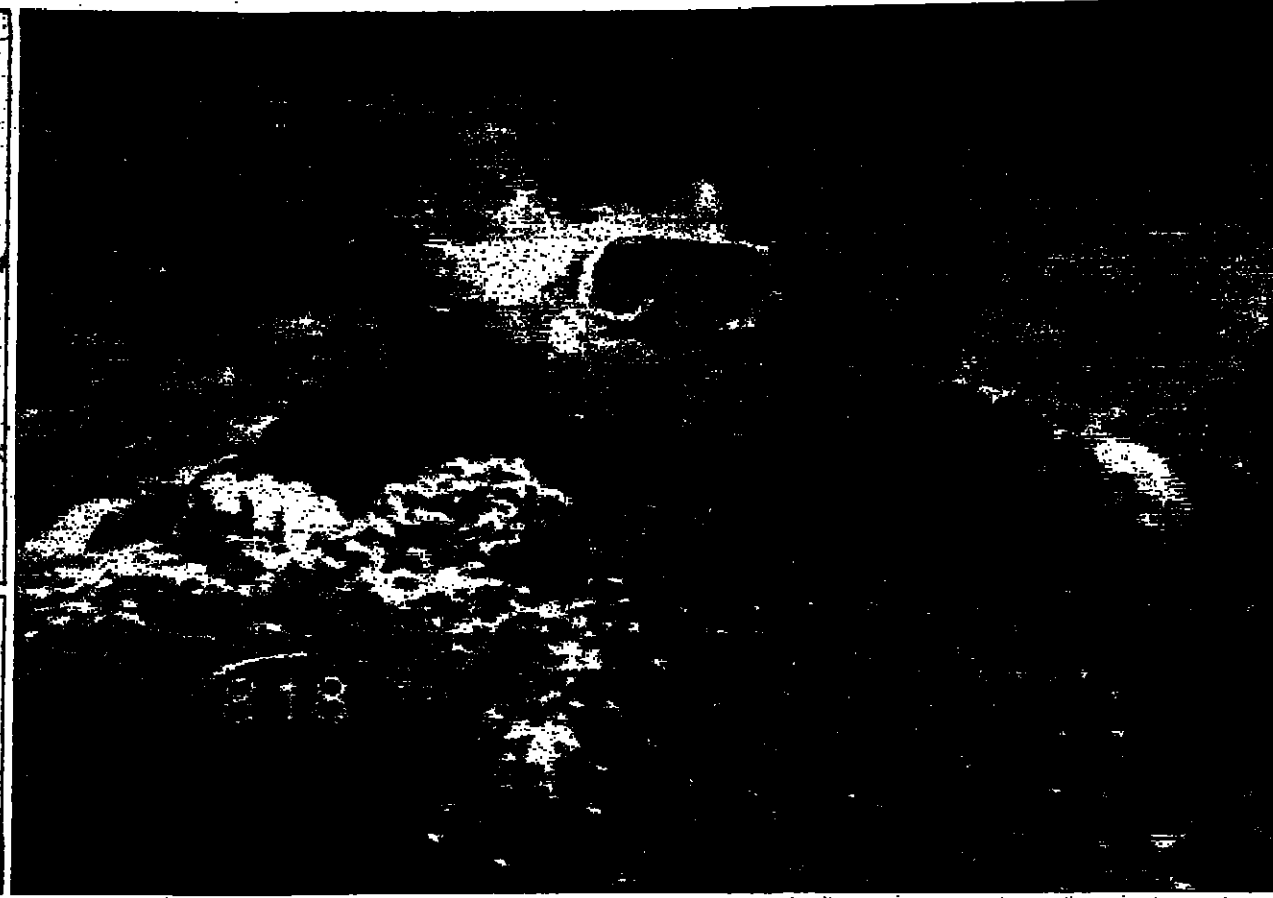
Rice, of Upton, Wirral, struck Andrew Ellis, 33, with such force that Mr Ellis's right eye had to be removed. Rice, with no previous convictions, denied inflicting grievous bodily harm to Mr Ellis and assaulting Christopher Kelly, 32.

# I just go where I'm told, says Prescott

By Adam Sherwin





Taking the plunge: Mr Prescott surfaces yesterday, left, after trouble with his face mask and, above, inspects the damaged coral reef

JOHN PRESCOTT returns to his ministerial desk today after completing his gruelling official visit to India and the Maldive Islands. The Deputy Prime Minister will not have much time for his travel memories to fade before his next trip.

Wetsuits will make way for the bright lights in New York next month when Mr Prescott leads Britain's delegation at the Sixth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, an 11-day environmental summit held at the United Nations. Officials at the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions say that the 11-day trip around the Indian Ocean furnished their boss with plenty of "first-hand environmental research" to dazzle the UN gathering.

The "high-level" Indian trip also gave Mr Prescott a taste of the high life which might cause some unease among old Hull comrades. It included flying first-class, visiting the Taj Mahal, stalking tigers and diving for coral. While his ministerial colleagues wrestled with transport tax rises in the Budget, the transport supremo was being driven around New Delhi in the High Commissioner's gas-guzzling Rolls-Royce.

The visit cost British taxpayers £55,000, but there were economies. The six officials and businessmen who accompanied Mr Prescott settled for £173-a-night rooms at the five-star Oberoi Towers in Bombay, while the hotel manager found a complimentary upgrade for Mr Prescott to the £1,358-a-night "presidential" suite. The Indian Ministry of Defence found a private jet to take him to the Taj Mahal, the "white marble splendour" of which will stay with Mr Prescott "for the rest of my life".

The purpose behind the excursion was for Mr Prescott and his business guests to discuss policies for dealing with air pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions and assisting in the building of India's infrastructure. Eight Indian ministers and the Prime Minister were ushered into the Prescott presence - "to cement relations", said the department. The work schedule was sufficiently flexible to add a trip to the Ranthambore reserve to see the Bengal tigers, a beast much lauded by Mr Prescott: "It was striding majestically towards me out of the twilight. We have much in common and much to learn from each other." He dismissed accusations that he was living it up at the taxpayers' expense. He said: "Do you mean us working-class lads shouldn't really expect such things? I go where I'm told."

Mr Prescott remained buoyant while diving on a coral reef off the Maldives, when an ill-fitting facemask filled up with water. Being an experienced diver, the Deputy Prime Minister remained calm, cleared his mask and continued.

There were some policy announcements: a £10 million scheme to help people in rural areas to use public transport by paying for taxis to bus stops; £50,000 for tiger conservation; £300,000 for coral conservation with money from Clare Short's Department for International Development.





## Service chiefs endorse race code

By Michael Evans
Defence Editor

THE three Service chiefs issued a further warning to military personnel yesterday that anyone guilty of racist behaviour could be discharged.

The decision by the heads of the Royal Navy, Army and RAF to send a signal to all commanders came after last week's disclosure that two soldiers had been questioned by police about suspected membership of the neo-Nazi group, Combat 18.

The chiefs said that "strict disciplinary procedures" would be used against anyone engaged "in the slightest form of racist behaviour".

The three chiefs, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, General Sir Roger Wheeler and Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, have already completed a race relations course — which all officers above the rank of brigadier must now undergo. Yesterday, in their joint signal, they said that the necessary powers already existed to deal with behaviour that was "incompatible with military service".

Such powers, they said, would be used to deal "with cases of membership of, support for, or association with groups or organisations whose purposes include incitement to racial hatred or violence". The warning is intended to show that racial prejudice is now regarded as one of the gravest abuses of the military code.

The two soldiers, one of them from The Parachute Regiment, who were questioned about Combat 18 were released on bail. Fourteen homes were raided as part of the investigation.

## Yard to help black officers rise to top

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

SPURRED by the Stephen Lawrence report, Scotland Yard yesterday began a campaign to increase the number of senior officers from ethnic minority backgrounds to reflect the fact that a fifth of Londoners are black, Asian or Chinese.

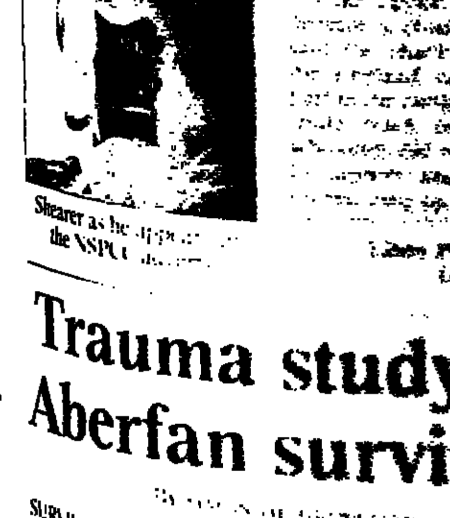
A cadre of senior officers from those ethnic backgrounds would provide the base for top officers in London and chief constables in other forces. The most senior officer from an ethnic minority background in the country at the moment is Tarrique Ghaffur, an assistant chief constable in the Lancashire force.

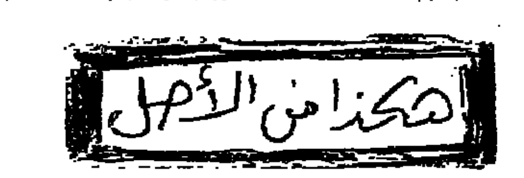
In London there are 23 officers from ethnic minority backgrounds who are inspectors or above out of a total of 1,870 senior officers. They include four superintendents. There are no black or Asian officers in any higher ranks but one London officer has completed the national course for the highest ranks.

The strategy, devised by a team of police and lay advisers, including personnel experts from British Telecom and British Airways, contains a scheme to help promising officers who reach the rank of inspector and above to develop their careers. It was concluded that with more than 860 black and Asian officers already serving there was a reservoir of talent to be developed.

At the same time it was noted that 30 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds now go into higher education and that 35 per cent of that group are from ethnic minority backgrounds. The Yard is also setting up a scholarship scheme for black and Asian students.







# Archaeologists lift lid on the great unknown

**Tomb of Roman VIP reveals his status, but no name, date or job, reports Dalya Alberge**

THE tomb of one of the richest and greatest of Roman Londoners began to reveal its secrets yesterday after 1,800 years, but the indentity of the VIP remained unknown.

Archaeologists opened up a stone sarcophagus that was discovered in the City of London on Friday on a site destined to become an office complex. It contained a decorative lead coffin that was beyond their dreams.

Chris Thomas, an archaeologist from the Museum of London, said: "This is one of the most sensational finds I've come across." Before opening, the surface of the sarcophagus was scanned with a metal-detector. "It was going absolutely mad," said Simon Thurley, a director of the museum. "It might be lined with lead, which would suggest the highest status burial. Perhaps a Roman governor, governor of London or even the whole province. Someone extremely grand and very rich. This is incredibly exciting."

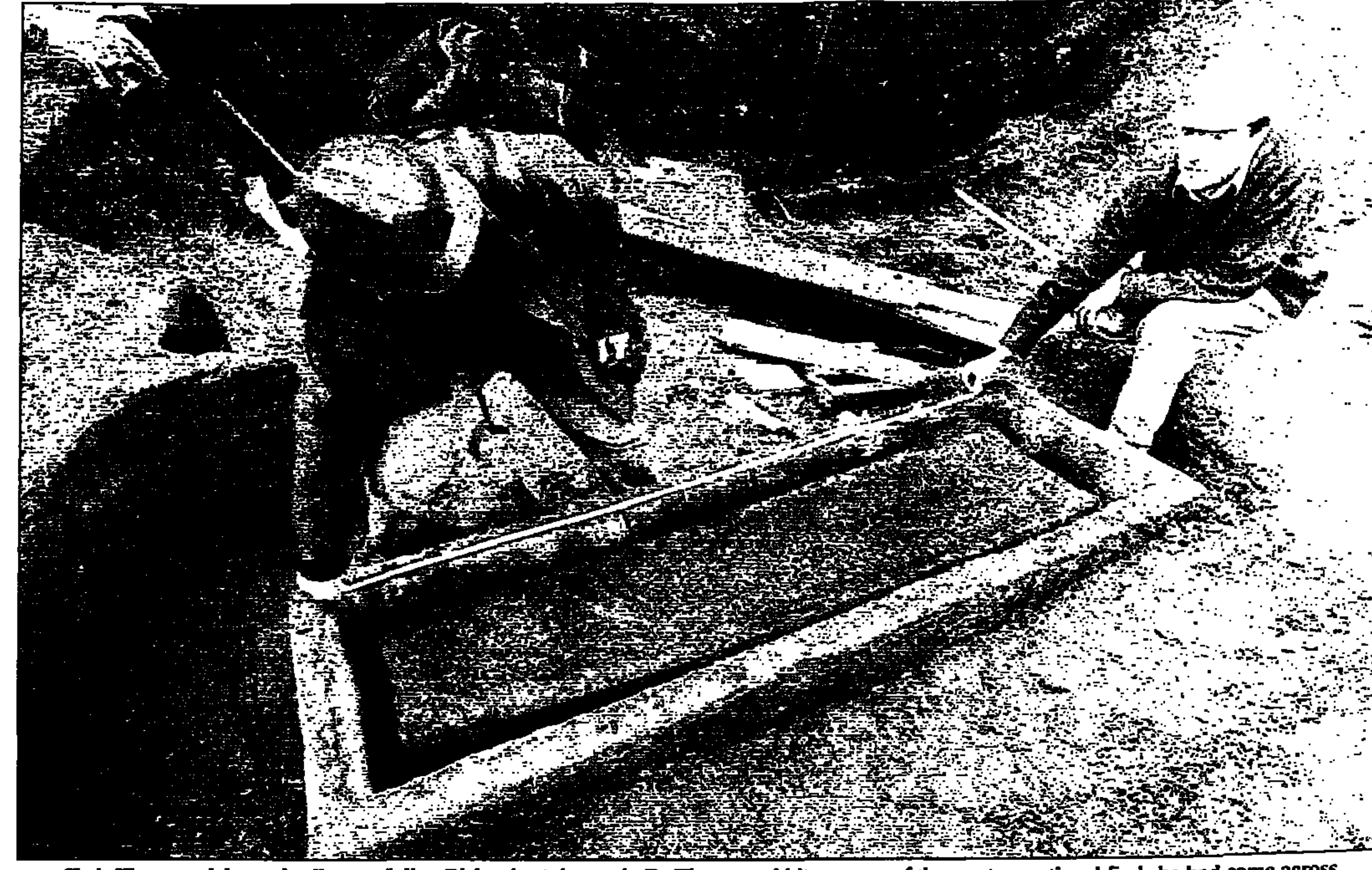
Using scaffolds to lever up the stone lid, several burly men slid it off the base to reveal a 6ft coffin not just lined with lead but made of lead. The team crouched down and peered. "Utterly extraordinary," said one. "This individual must have been very, very wealthy and very important," said another. "It's in amazing condition. It's not been disturbed. No wonder the detector gave such a strong signal."

The sarcophagus was discovered as archaeologists were excavating 12ft beneath the sprawling clay and gravel site, which was a Roman cemetery outside the town walls, beside Bishopsgate. There are delicate rope-pattern lines on the edge and an inner panel on the lid. The top is covered in what looked like a thin layer of congealed mud: as it does not go beyond the inner panel, the archaeologists suggest it could be the remnants of flowers or branches offered to the dead.

The group tried to make out details beneath that layer, seeking out the slightest sign of an inscription. "A lottery win is a date, a name and a job title," said Dr Thurley. "But we'll settle for less." Inside, they expect that a skeleton could be surrounded by white powder, the remnants of a plaster and chalk mix that was used for disinfectant purposes, explained Bill White, a Museum of London osteo-archaeologist. The next stage is to lift and transport the entire sarcophagus to a laboratory.

Nearby graves are rectangular holes, from which skeletons have been taken away for study. As they date from AD 150 to 250, the coffin may bear a similar date. Ordinary people were buried in timber coffins or shrouds. The last find of a stone sarcophagus of any kind in Britain was about 30 years ago in Bow.

Michael Bear, chief executive of the Spitalfields Development Group, on whose 12-acre site the sarcophagus was found, said that such discoveries added a certain romance to his world. Other excavations have unearthed plague pits and a medieval priory. Part of the site has been designated as a Schedule Ancient Monument. Mr Bear is allowing the museum to create a temporary display in an old fruit and vegetable stall in the Spitalfields Market from mid-April.



Chris Thomas, right, and colleague Julian Richards at the tomb. Dr Thomas said it was one of the most sensational finds he had come across

# Child abuse ad uses cruelty to hit home

By Alexandra Frean, social affairs correspondent

HARROWING television advertisements for the NSPCC are to be shown only after the 9pm watershed, to avoid upsetting children.

The advertisements, known as the Full Stop Campaign, are to be broadcast for the first time tonight. Created by Saatchi's, they are designed to demonstrate that most cruelty to children occurs at home.

The England footballer Alan Shearer, the Spice Girls and other children's favourites, such as Action Man and Rupert Bear, are shown covering their eyes. In the background can be heard a mother losing her temper with a baby, an angry father screaming uncontrollably at a child, a bewildered toddler crying for help and a father sexually abusing his daughter.

Jim Harding, the chief executive of the NSPCC, said that the campaign — the biggest in the NSPCC's history — was designed to end widespread public complacency about child cruelty. Too many people refused to confront child abuse when they suspected it was going on, he said, because it was too painful to deal with. There was also a danger that the recent highly publicised investigations into abuse in children's homes in past decades made people wrongly suppose that it had now been eradicated in general.

"The prevailing culture is one of denial about what is happening. Only when we recognise the reality of child abuse can we get on with bringing it to an end. It is an unacceptable stain on society and it is time we removed it," Mr Harding said.

Shearer, who has two small daughters, said he hoped the campaign would highlight the terrible abuse that many children suffered: "In the world of football, we take a huge interest in the potential of children and young people. The NSPCC's advertising will make people think about the right that children have to a happy and loving childhood."

Mike Taylor, the NSPCC's director of children's services, said the charity had invited the England captain to take part in the campaign so that it could reach out to fathers, who often did not have access to support and information on bringing up children.

Shearer as he appears in the NSPCC adverts

Libby Purves, page 18
Letters, page 19

# Trauma study on Aberfan survivors

By Simon de Bruxelles

SURVIVORS of the Aberfan coal tip disaster are to take part in a two-year study to investigate the long-term psychological effects that it has had on their lives.

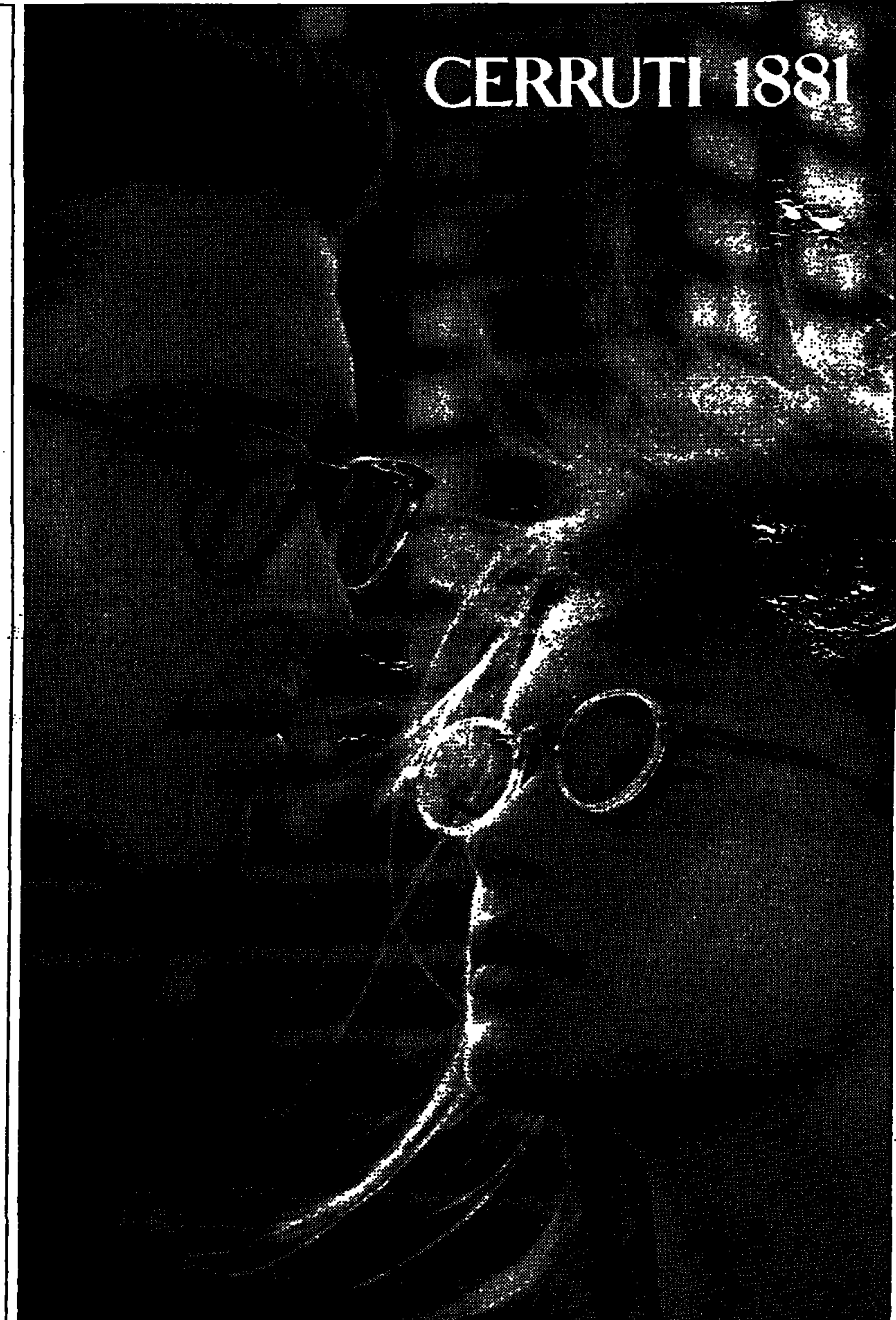
In October 1966, 116 children and 28 adults died when tens of thousands of tons of coal waste slid down a hill on to the Pantglas Junior School in South Wales. Many of the 145 children who escaped are now in their late thirties and early forties and are still struggling to come to terms with their survival.

A team from Cardiff University College of Medicine, funded by the Welsh Office, expects to find evidence of lingering traumas that have affected physical and mental health, education, job prospects and relationships.

One of the team leaders, Jane Scourfield, 35, said that the investigators would compare the experiences of the survivors with adults who attended other schools in the area: "Not a lot is known about post-traumatic stress disorder. Our aim is to come up with findings that will help to treat survivors of future disasters."

Gaynor Minett, 41, who was pulled from the ruins of the school, but lost her brother and sister, said: "Many of the survivors are still suffering emotionally from the disaster. I'm sure it would help all of us to talk about it with people who understand post-traumatic stress."





# Test aims to stop Classics becoming ancient history

**Bogus language is part of drive to attract students with no Latin or Greek, writes Hannah Betts**

A NEW generation of Oxford classicists is entering university without knowing any Latin or Greek. Instead, their aptitude to learn the ancient languages is judged by their ability to make sense of an invented language.

Oxford's Classics Language Aptitude Test is an hour-long examination designed to assess sixth-formers' capacity to learn Latin and Greek from scratch. The test introduces an imaginary language from which phrases such as *ni sqes leredaf* ("do not stand on the books") have to be translated into English from a set of simple rules. The test is taken by the large numbers of would-be classicists whose schools no longer offer Latin or Greek, a problem particularly acute in the state sector.

Those who do well join an intensive course that aims to have them enjoying Homer and Virgil in the original within months.

This week, the first intake begins revising for its final examinations in the classic tongues. The university is confident that the results will be as impressive as those of students who took the more conventional academic route. But the course has attracted only a small number of applicants.

Ewen Bowie, admissions officer in Classics, said: "The faculty is very proud of the package, so we are slightly disappointed that applications are not moving forward faster."

This year there were 20 applicants and 11 places were awarded, although twice as many students could have been accommodated. State schools were well represented in the final intake. Three out of four candidates from comprehensive schools were successful, as were all three grammar school applicants.

Dr Bowie believes several factors may explain slow uptake of the course, ranging from sixth-formers finding Oxford's image intimidating to ignorance that the course exists.

On the evidence of examination results, there is a large pool of potential students. In recent years, some 6,500 pupils in England and Wales sat A levels in classical subjects, but only 1,500 studied Latin and fewer than 300 took Greek. Most opted for classical civilisation courses, where the texts are studied largely in translation.

Peter Parsons, Regius Professor of Greek, argues that fewer students with knowledge of Latin and Greek means fewer teachers, to spread the word that these languages are the best gateway to the ancient world.

"We have a humane belief in what we're doing and that we've found the best way of doing it," he said. "It would be entirely wrong to take an ivory tower attitude and let the subject dwindle under the demands of the modern world. The task that lies ahead now is to convince young people that we can help them to read themselves inside the skin of two remarkable civilisations."

**LANGUAGE APTITUDE TEST**

**Sample question from 1997:**

In this language there are two classes of nouns and two classes of verbs. In sentences, each member of each class of verbs and nouns behaves according to the same pattern as every other member of its class, but the pattern may vary from class to class.

One class of nouns and one class of verbs is characterised by the presence of a long vowel (ā ē ī ō ū) in some or all of its forms: the other class of each is characterised by the absence of a long vowel.

Here are seven sentences in this language:

a. tetrōzor chūp-chas fila-chan.
b. dingesor fila-cha bāp.
c. sesnāzor chūp-chas filaf.
d. sqensesor fila-cha mutan.
e. tatrōsor chūpi.
f. cecīsor fila-cha chūp-chaf.
g. dingezor muta fila'q chūp-chaf.

Beside each English sentence below write the letter of the sentence that it translates. You may not assume that the word-order is the same as in English, but you may assume that it is regular and consistent.

1. A farmer steps on a dog.
2. A dog and a cow bite a dentist
3. Some dentists take some cows.
4. A farmer sues some dentists.
5. A farmer takes a bite of bread.
6. He hurts some teeth.
7. Some dentists hurt a farmer.

Answers: a-7; b-5; c-3; d-1; e-6; f-4; g-2

**LINKS**

http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk
Classics home page of the Faculty of Literae Humaniores

FINDLAY KEMBER



Mikhail Gorbachev at King's College yesterday, where he spoke on the future of Russia

## Dissident attacks Gorbachev visit

BY A CORRESPONDENT

VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY, the Russian dissident who studied at King's College, Cambridge, after being imprisoned in the Soviet Union for his political views, criticised his alma mater yesterday for playing host to the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Bukovsky wrote to the college in protest, saying that Mr Gorbachev's leadership had presided over massacres of civilians and deliberately instigated ethnic conflicts in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

"It is a personal insult for me to see Gorbachev staying overnight in my college (like it would have been insulting for Jew to see a known Nazi invited as guest of honour)," Mr Bukovsky wrote. He said that the college's reputation would be "smeared" by "co-operation with mass murderers".

Mr Gorbachev addressed a college symposium yesterday on the future of Russia, organised by the Gorbachev Foundation and the King's College Research Centre. He was scheduled to stay overnight at King's and to give a public lecture in Cambridge today.

No one from King's was available for comment yesterday.

## How children learn to hate the Germans

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH children become increasingly anti-German and pro-British as they grow older, according to psychologists.

Adam Rutland, of Aberdeen University, found that, until the age of ten, children do not bother about nationality. But as they become teenagers, they begin to be proud of being British and to dislike Germans.

For the research, 329 white, middle and lower-class children in southern England were divided into six age groups between six and 16. Each group was shown photographs of seven white men and seven white women and asked to say whether they liked or disliked the faces. The test showed that none of the children liked or disliked some of the people in the photographs more than others.

Two weeks later, the children were shown the pictures again. This time they were told that the people in the photographs were either British, German, American, Russian or Australian.

Among the children aged six to ten there was no evidence of national prejudice against those described as Germans. From the age of 12 onwards, however, prejudices began to emerge and, among the 14-year-olds, the evaluation of the "German" photographs was clearly negative.

After the picture test each child was asked a number of questions to clarify their attitudes to being British and their opinions of other nationalities. Among the younger children, the most important thing about being British was that they could speak English and had friends and families living nearby. The younger children also said they liked the "beautiful countryside" or "nice weather". They did not make any social comment.

By the time they were ten, however, chauvinism began to emerge. "We have the best army in the world thanks to Oliver Cromwell. We beat Germany in World War Two," one ten-year-old said.

A 12-year-old was proud that "we had the Empire and we have a monarchy and not many countries have them". A 14-year-old said: "We are more civilised and friendly compared to the French and Germans."

A 16-year-old thought "the food here is better compared to other places". Another in this age group said: "We are different from other countries. For example, we do not have capital punishment and we have not lost any wars."

# Second inquiry to unravel maritime mystery

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH COURT judge will open a second inquiry today into the loss of the *MV Derbyshire* with 44 lives. The sinking of the four-year-old ship in 1980 is one of the mysteries of maritime history, and has confounded experts.

The inquiry, announced last year by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is unprecedented. Mr Justice Colman, a commercial court judge, will chair what amounts to a rehearing of the first inquiry with the aim of establishing why the ship went down in the South China Sea.

The judge, who has experience of shipping disputes, will study more than 135,000 photographs and 200 hours of video film from the £2 million investigation of the wreck in 1997.

In 1981 Lord Trefgarne, Minister for Trade at the time, decided that a formal investigation into the sinking was impracticable because of the lack of "any material evidence ... no ship, no survivors, nor any wreckage". But an inquiry was ordered after the *Kowloon Bridge*, one of the Derbyshire's five sister ships, went down in 1986. Four years earlier another sister ship, the *Tyne Bridge*, suffered a crack in the deck in bad weather and had to be towed to safety.

The first inquiry, conducted by Gerald Darling, QC, reported in 1989 that the ship "was probably overwhelmed by the forces of nature in Typhoon Orchid" off Okinawa. Relatives of the dead, trades unions and shipping experts have maintained, however, that the *Derbyshire* and other bulk carriers like it had design faults.

In 1995 the Government asked Lord Donaldson of Lymington, former Master of the Rolls, to report on the feasibility of a further inquiry. He concluded that the £2 million survey of the wreck site was justified in view of the potential benefits to ship safety.

The survey report concluded that water taken on board through an unsecured hatch, barely one metre square, was one of the main causes of the loss of the 169,000 tonne ship.



PETER NICHOLLS

The Prince on Sea Lion Island, home to large colonies of penguins, elephant seals, sea lions, and just two humans — a former Yorkshireman and his wife who run a tourist lodge

# At peace among the penguins

**Alan Hamilton** on the Prince's brief escape from Falklands politics

WHEN one has upset the Argentinians and been lauded to the skies by the Falkland Islanders, it provides a moment of relief to be able to talk to the penguins. One is assured of a large and attentive audience.

The Prince of Wales, on his official visit to the South Atlantic, briefly escaped the politics of sovereignty during a tour of Sea Lion Island, the most southerly inhabited of the Falklands, with a resident population of 40,000 penguins, 3,500 sea lions, 50 bull elephant seals, a Yorkshireman and his wife.

By chance, the only other tourist at the Falklands' premier wildlife location during the visit was Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby, a nephew of the late naturalist Sir Peter Scott. "This is absolutely marvellous," Mr Talbot-Ponsonby enthused. "I've always had a great interest in the Falklands, and it's uplifting to be here."

The Prince was equally intrigued. With shepherd's crook in hand, he walked among a vast flock of gentoos, an eccentric breed of penguin, which, despite the characteristic inability of the species to move on dry land at anything faster than a waddle, insists on walking as far as possible inland to find a nesting site.

Sea Lion Island is home to an even greater number of magellanic penguins, known to the locals as jackasses, from their habit of braying like donkeys at dusk. It is an equally odd creature, being one of the very few penguins to tunnel a burrow for a nest. Not for them all that standing about on the ice balancing an egg on their feet.

On a cement-grey beach, the Prince looked at a large number of huge motionless brown boulders. As he watched, one boulder raised a flipper and dusted itself with sand to keep cool. The Prince was advised to keep his distance; not only have southern bull elephant seals been known to bite sizeable chunks out of unwary tourists' bottoms, they have the sort of breath that would strip wallpaper at 50 paces.

But there are always eccentric humans about who want to get closer than is good for them. A team of Italian researchers has been on Sea Lion Island trying to weigh the seals, which can exceed four tonnes. Their sophisticated scientific method is to lure the bull onto a weighbridge by the use of an inflatable rubber model of a gorgeous amphibious cow.



A Falklands elephant seal: the breath is said to be deadly

As the Prince walked past, one seal let out a loud noise, a cross between a roar and a bad bout of flatulence. "Why don't you pat him, sir," a photographer called. "Oh yes, I suppose you'd like that, thank you very much," the Prince retorted.

The two humans on Sea Lion Island are David and Patricia Gray, who emigrated to the Falklands from North Yorkshire 25 years ago, and moved to the island after a spell of farming at Goose Green, which included incarceration for 29 days in the village hall during the Argentine occupation.

The island, once home to 1,600 sheep, is now a conservation area, and the Grays have built a small tourist lodge from which visitors can see 47 species of nesting birds, and killer whales cruising offshore.

Tourism is still in its infancy in the Falklands, with only about 300 staying visitors a year, plus another 20,000 who come ashore on day excursions from cruise liners.

Yesterday the Prince toured research projects at the Falklands Department of Agriculture, where experts from Britain and Australia are trying to improve the islands' traditionally poor pasture to increase organic beef and pork production.

The islanders, whose staple diet was once elderly mutton, hope eventually to establish a niche in world markets for pure organic produce.

The Prince, whose programme had earlier been disrupted by bad weather, also visited the British War Cemetery at San Carlos, where 15 servicemen are buried, and the memorial to the Welsh Guards, of which he is Colonel-in-Chief, at Fitzroy, near the scene of the disastrous bombing of two landing craft at the height of the 1982 conflict.

His visit to the Falklands has proved outstandingly popular with the 2,200 islanders, the great majority of whom were able to see him at Stanley, Goose Green or Fox Bay in West Falkland. His surprisingly direct reference to the sovereignty question during a speech in Buenos Aires served to double his welcome in the islands, and to reassure the population of Britain's continuing commitment towards them.

Lewis Clifton, a member of the islands' legislative council, said yesterday: "We have left Prince Charles with the clear message that, for our next royal visitor, we want the Queen."

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Life for killer on the bus

Martin Gibbs, 46, from Kennington, South London, was jailed for life at the Old Bailey for stabbing to death a man who had politely remonstrated with him for throwing a bottle from a bus near Vauxhall Bridge.

Herbie Williams, 56, a retired London Transport mechanic, who was on his way home from prayers at Westminster Cathedral, had left the bus after Gibbs became belligerent, but Gibbs followed him and plunged a 12-inch knife into his chest. Gibbs had 20 previous convictions.

## Lawrence attack

A care worker was given 200 hours' community service at Southwark for kneeing a constable in the face at the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. Rasaki Yesufu-Muhammad, 29, from Northolt, is a member of the Nation of Islam.

## Robbery appeal

Bill "Mad Dog" Hickson, 54, and John "Chainsaw Woody" Woodruff, 60, were given leave to appeal against their convictions in 1997 for robbing an East London post office. They claim that police planted a gun during their arrest.

## Murder hunt

Detectives are hunting a mugger who fatally injured an elderly man during an attack on the doorstep of his home. John Fiddian, 91, died in hospital on Saturday, two days after the attack in Handsworth Wood, Birmingham.

## TV writer dies

The television comedy writer Sid Green, who worked for Morecambe and Wise and many others, has died aged 71. He and his partner, the late Dick Hills, had their own series, *That Show* and *Those Two Fellers*, in the 1960s.

## Off her trolley

Firemen used bolt cutters to free Olivia Groves, aged 20 months, when she became stuck in the child seat of a supermarket trolley while shopping with her parents at a Tesco store in Eastbourne, East Sussex.





# Why the Tories agreed to differ on Europe

**Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS**

WILLIAM HAGUE has done something sensible. He has stopped digging himself further into a hole on Europe. His real challenge as leader has been less policy than management — whether his party becomes an exclusive sect or whether dissent is tolerated.

If Mr Hague learned anything on his recent American trip, it should have been the dangers of defining a party by a single issue. A major reason why the Republicans lost the last two presidential elections was that they appeared intolerant on moral issues as the voice of the Religious Right. Abortion has been the litmus test for many Republican activists, particularly those who vote in primary elections. But such absolutism has repelled many women voters.

However, even in the preliminary skirmishing for the 2000 campaign, some possible Republican runners have signalled a more tolerant attitude. George W. Bush Jr, the Texas Governor, has said that, while he is against abortion rights, he does not favour a constitutional ban because there is no consensus on it. George Pataki, the New York Governor and possible vice-presidential nominee, has similarly argued that "a plank that says we all have to believe or act one way or the other is inappropriate".

The Tories are in a parallel predicament. At times, the leadership has seemed to want to make Europe a defining and excluding issue. There have even been mutterings by some "pygmies and zealots", in Sir Malcolm Rifkind's phrase, about pushing out pro-Europeans, especially after the ballot of members six months ago. That would risk limiting the party's appeal.

This is not about modifying the party's policy. Ever since Mr Hague became leader, there has never been any doubt that the Tories would oppose joining the single currency at the next election. That is the overwhelming view of Tory members, MPs and the Shadow Cabinet. This is why talk of Kenneth Clarke becoming leader is so inherently implausible in current circumstances, even though he is by far the best qualified alternative.

The Tories have to live with their current policy until either they win the next election, and entry is ruled out for a decade or more, or they lose, and a re-elected Blair Government holds, and wins, a referendum on entry. In this case, the Tories will have to shift in a pro-European direction. But the Tories cannot win an election if they suffer the hugely damaging split involved in driving out pro-Europeans.

Of course, some committed pros, notably John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly, have left to set up their Pro-European party. But the big names, Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, David Curry and Ian Taylor, have said they have no intention of leaving the Tory party or of supporting the Stevens/Donnelly group. Moreover, Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine have withheld their public backing from the new cross-party Britain in Europe campaign until after the Euro-elections.

That is the basis for an agreement to differ, as Mr Hague has recognised. He has referred to to "a broad church" with people "not having to agree to 100 per cent of the policies" and not wanting to see MPs driven out of the party. The key requirement is not supporting any group putting up candidates against the Tories and, a greyer area, not rocking the boat during election periods. But such a concordat also means that the leadership does not harden its sceptic position.

# Archer sets out to milk popular vote for mayor

By Roland Watson, political correspondent

A SMALL carton of UHT milk — possibly sponsored — took centre stage in the race to become London's mayor yesterday as Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare vowed to give back what Margaret Thatcher had once taken away.

Lord Archer said he would give a daily free carton of milk to the capital's 500,000 primary schoolchildren. However, rather than simply restoring what Mrs Thatcher removed as Education Secretary in the early 1970s, Lord Archer went one better, offering a healthy breakfast bar and fruit juice for non milk-drinkers.

In what was immediately dubbed a "muesli offensive", Lord Archer said the case for free school milk was overwhelming. Research showed that poor nutrition affected schoolwork, he said, and that children who arrived without having had a proper breakfast tended to be disruptive.

Lord Archer put the annual cost at £30 million, although he has started talks with supermarkets and cereal producers in the hope of striking a sponsorship deal.

It was part of an overtly populist platform, which included the promise to give his £100,000 mayoral salary to charities for the homeless. His "rolling manifesto" included:

■ A hole in the road tax. Gas, electricity and other utilities would be charged to dig up London's roads.

■ Cleaner cars. Heavy fines levied by the boroughs on cars with exhaust fumes which break the legal limit, but no congestion charges.

■ A commissioner for dirt to clean up the capital and oversee a mayor-led anti-litter campaign. Courts would be encouraged to sentence offenders to serve on gangs of litter removers and graffiti busters.

■ Commuter services: a new express bus on 17 key routes into and around London would have a fixed fare of £1. Buses to the City and the West End would run every three minutes. Routes would start well outside London with park and ride stations at each one.

■ A £32 million a year handout to London boroughs to spur more voluntary work by charities and others; at least half the money earmarked to help the elderly.

■ Mayor's question time. Lord Archer would answer questions twice a month, alternating between radio phone-ins and public meetings.

Ken Livingstone, one of the two other declared candidates, accused Lord Archer of borrowing his policies. The former leader of the GLC and Labour MP for Brent East cited the bus links and his Tory rival's emphasis on social exclusion, with particular help for the elderly and homeless.

Leading article, page 19

SIMON BROOKE-WEBB



Hague: criticised cynical attitude to press freedom

# Hague in attack on 'Stalinist' Blair

By Philip Webster, political editor

WILLIAM HAGUE yesterday called the Prime Minister an "old-style Stalinist" as he attacked Downing Street's "patronising, hypocritical and cynical attitude" to press freedom.

The Tory leader told the London Press Club that Tony Blair was "ruthlessly intolerant" of debate, scrutiny or argument. "He seems to expect uncritical acceptance of everything he does, no matter how misguided or wrong-headed his actions."

Mr Hague said that Mr Blair and Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, had in recent weeks "vowed to bypass national political correspondents and take their message direct to the apparently less demanding audience on regional newspapers, women's magazines and the ethnic minority press."

Mr Hague said there was a more sinister side. "Blair and Campbell know that they cannot operate without continuing to brief the parliamentary lobby. But they also hope that by threatening to exile its more independent-minded members, they might be able to bully the rest of the pack into toeing the line."

Michael Gove, page 18

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### £80m to get patients off trolleys

An extra £80 million is to be spent on upgrading hospital casualty departments to ensure that patients are no longer left lying on trolleys in corridors, Frank Dobson told MPs. The Health Secretary said that the money, from the Treasury's Capital Modernisation Fund, would ensure that all but five of the 202 accident and emergency departments had a separate admissions ward. Patients would stay in admissions ward beds until a place was allocated in a specialist ward.

### Biblical politics

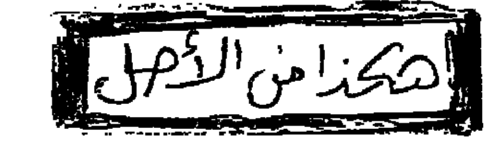
The Conservatives' "Listening to Britain's churches" exercise has shown that churchgoers want the Tories to become a party of biblical values and virtues rather than one obsessed with economic issues. Pleas for a return to traditional values were among the early results of the consultation.

### Fuel tax 'failure'

John Prescott was accused of failing to secure any increases in transport spending despite a £2 billion rise in motoring taxes to £33 billion a year. Gillian Shephard, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said the Budget fuel tax rises had hit many vulnerable people who depended on their cars.







NATALIE BEHRING / REUTERS

Zhu Rongji yesterday: he dismissed US charges that China had stolen nuclear secrets as an Arabian Nights' tale

# China warns West to shun dissidents

## Diplomats dismayed after Beijing brands political exiles a threat to democracy, James Pringle reports

CHINA, displaying an unyielding stance on human rights, warned Western governments not to support Chinese dissidents living in exile.

The warning yesterday by Zhu Rongji, the Prime Minister, comes as the tenth anniversary of the killing of pro-democracy supporters in Tiananmen Square draws near and as he prepares to embark on a controversial visit to the United States next month. There is also concern as the US and the European Union consider whether to table a resolution critical of Beijing's record at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva later this month.

Speaking at the end of the annual session of the National People's Congress, China's nominal parliament, Mr Zhu said: "Don't support these elements of the democracy movement. After you let those people return to China, there will be no legal system and no democracy. It is not what you think it will be."

The Prime Minister was apparently referring to China's best-known dissidents, Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan. The two were forced into exile in America after serving prison terms in Beijing.

At the press conference, Mr Zhu also recalled his recent meeting with Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, during which he described his own part in China's history as a struggle for human rights. "I told her, I am ten years older than you. When I took part in the movement for democracy, freedom and human rights against the [Nationalist] Kuomintang, you were still in junior high school." Diplomats said his remarks would disappoint those who felt that "constructive engagement" would influence China on human rights.

Mr Zhu, 70, spoke on a range of subjects during this once-a-year opportunity for reporters to quiz Chinese leaders. He was dismissive of US charges that China had stolen nuclear secrets from the Los Alamos laboratories in New Mexico. "The so-called problem of China stealing military secrets from the United States is like a tale from the Arabian Nights," he said.

The Prime Minister said Sino-US relations had been damaged by an internal struggle in America but he hoped for a "warm handshake" from President Clinton to reflect "quite good relations". He also derided reports that China had positioned 600 missiles aimed at Taiwan and warned Washington against proceeding with a Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) plan for Asia.

"We are against TMD," Mr Zhu said. "We are especially firm in our opposition to including Taiwan under TMD. Our missiles are absolutely not aimed at our brothers and sisters in Taiwan, and we would not easily use these missiles," he said.

Mr Zhu said Washington had overestimated the nuclear threat posed by North Korea, but seemed to dismiss US suggestions that China could press Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programme. "How can we interfere [in] an independent country?" he asked.

The parliament closed after passing constitutional amendments elevating the role of the private sector, the rule of law and enshrining Deng Xiaoping Thought on China's "market socialism" alongside that of Marx, Lenin and Mao.

Under the reforms, the private sector will become an "important component", instead of just a "complement", to the socialist economy, a recognition of the growing ability of entrepreneurship to create jobs and economic prosperity.

# Chinese 'are still stealing military secrets from US'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Washington clash over the leaking of nuclear weapons secrets to China grew more heated yesterday, with a leading protagonist claiming that the problem was still going on.

Smelling blood, the Republicans are stepping up their attacks on the Clinton Administration, pointedly asking if there is a link between the President's slow reaction to the suspected espionage and the reported but never proved Chinese connection to illegal contributions to his re-election campaign. The White House rejects the charge.

"Absolutely no truth to it — it's an outrageous statement," declared Sandy Berger, Mr Clinton's National Security Adviser. Nonetheless, the accusations of Chinese spying, coupled with an ineffective US response, are shaping up into a row that could run well into the presidential election season next year. Indeed, several second-tier Republican candidates are already making insistent demands for Mr Berger's head.

At issue is how China developed nuclear warheads, small enough to put several on one missile, that bear a striking resemblance to the W88s carried on American Trident submarines. The secrets may have been stolen during the 1980s from the Los Alamos nuclear research laboratory in New Mexico. A Taiwan-born computer scientist there has been sacked but not charged.

The accusation that the leaks are continuing has been made by Christopher Cox, Republican chairman of the congressional Select Intelligence Committee which investigated the leaks. He cited inadequate counter-intelligence at Los Alamos and other research laboratories. "Throughout the Government, we do not do a good job of protecting our military secrets from collection," he said.

One specific problem that the Clinton Administration was only just beginning to address was the unfettered flow of thousands of e-mail messages from the laboratories, Mr Cox claimed. If true, e-mailing blueprints of warheads could be a far simpler way of spying than the Cold War chores of copying documents and dropping them off behind a tree for the KGB.

Bill Richardson, the US Energy Secretary in charge of cleaning up the Los Alamos mess, claims that the Administration acted "swiftly and responsibly" over the leaks.

# Liz Taylor 'beaten by her father'



Taylor in *National Velvet*: "I don't blame him"

New York: Elizabeth Taylor has revealed that her father was a drunk who beat her as a child (James Bone writes). "When I was a little girl, my father was abusive when he drank, and seemed to like to bat me around a bit," she said in a taped television interview to be broadcast before the Oscars on Sunday.

Taylor was born in London in 1932 but moved to the United States with her American parents, Francis and Sara, before the Second World War. She got her first film part at the age of nine in *There's One Born Every Minute*. Her performance in *National Velvet*, released when she was 12, made her a star. She told ABC television's Barbara Walters that she had grown to understand and forgive her father, an art-dealer. "I don't blame him . . . he was drunk."

Taylor's past may explain her troubled life since she left home to marry Nicky Hilton, an alcoholic who battered her on their honeymoon.

# Albanians take peace road

## Accord by Kosovo rebels puts ball in court of Yugoslavia's President Milosevic, Tom Walker reports

THE ethnic Albanian delegation to the resumed Kosovo peace talks yesterday handed Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Hubert Védrine, his French counterpart, a letter saying they would sign the Contact Group's autonomy plan for the province.

After a week of procrastination that threatened to cost the Albanian cause much international goodwill, the delegation, through its most intransigent member, Hashim Thaci, acknowledged that Kosovo was at a "turning point". Western diplomats said the letter, signed by Mr Thaci, signalled a sea change in the negotations, with the pressure now very much on Belgrade.

It was not clear last night how long the Albanians will stay in Paris. With face-to-face talks with the Serbs, who have issued a warrant for Mr Thaci's arrest, again ruled out as almost meaningless, there is little for the Albanians to do in the Centre Kléber, the peace conference's new home near the Arc de Triomphe.

One Western source admitted talks may peter out before the end of the week, when Mr Cook and M Védrine are likely to fly to Belgrade for yet another confrontation with Kosovo's ultimate arbiter, President Milosevic of Yugoslavia.

Yesterday there was no sign of a Serb climbdown on the peace plan's sticking-point — a 28,000-strong, Nato-led force to oversee and help to implement the political part of the deal, which has been broadly accepted by Belgrade. Nevertheless, Mr Milosevic continues to call the international community's bluff, aware that the six-nation Contact Group is deeply divided over the use of Nato airstrikes, currently the only bargaining-chip left to force through the deal.

Analysts in Belgrade gave a warning that Mr Milosevic might even sanction a fresh offensive in Kosovo as a prelude to any Nato involvement. The Yugoslav Army extended conscripts' military service by 30 days yesterday because of "threats of military intervention", the official Tanjug news agency said. The country continues to remain on a war-footing — an atmosphere that Mr Milosevic will seek to exploit.

Albanian sources close to Mr Thaci and the delegation gave a warning that the Kosovo Liberation Army's promises might be short-lived. "We know there will be no airstrikes if the Serbs do not sign, and in that case, if the Serbs keep on shelling, there will be trouble," Pleurat Sejdiu, the KLA's London representative, said. "The KLA will have to defend itself."

Despite the still gloomy prospects for peace, diplomats insisted the Albanian letter had injected new life into the talks and were happy to label it as a breakthrough. In the letter, Mr Thaci said that, after consultations with the people of Kosovo, "this delegation and I personally say 'yes' to this agreement. We would be honoured to sign the agreement in your presence at a time and place of your choosing."

Mr Thaci, 29, who has eclipsed Ibrahim Rugova, the former moderate figurehead of the ethnic Albanians, also praised Mr Cook and M Védrine, the co-chairmen of the talks. "Your contribution, as well as the contribution of the administration of your countries, was great," it said.

LAURENT REBOURS / AP



Ibrahim Rugova, moderate leader of the ethnic Albanians, gives the victory sign outside the conference centre.

# Cook to read riot act to Milosevic

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE EDITOR

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, will go to Belgrade later this week to issue one final warning to President Milosevic, if the Yugoslav leader fails to match the ethnic Albanian promise to sign a peace settlement for Kosovo.

Mr Cook, who co-chaired the reopening of the peace talks, said that the Serbian side had "one less alibi for signing up to this package". Although there was no sign of the Serb delegation weakening in its opposition to a Nato-led peace implementation force in Kosovo, British officials said that the Serbs would be given another 48 to 72 hours to agree to a deal. "If, after that, they are still being obstructive, it is likely that Robin Cook and Hubert Védrine [the French Foreign Minister] will go to Belgrade to make it absolutely clear to Mr Milosevic what he is facing," one British official said.

Failure by Mr Milosevic to give in to diplomatic pressure would lead to a sequence of events, starting with the withdrawal of embassy staff from Belgrade, the evacuation of the Kosovo verification mission and airstrikes.

President Clinton, adding to the pressure on the Serbs yesterday, said in Washington: "The most important thing is that Milosevic and the Serbs must sign. If he shows intransigence and aggression, we would have very little option."

# Russia and Serbs united in a Slavic brotherhood

From Anna Blundy
IN MOSCOW

THE ultra-nationalist leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic Party, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, yesterday echoed the sentiments of the majority of Russians in voicing his support for his Serb brothers "whatever their actions".

He said: "Considering the longstanding brotherhood between Russia and Serbia as Slav peoples, we have always supported each other, and the Liberal Democratic Party gives Serbia a *carte blanche* to do anything, from uniting with Russia to allying itself to America."

While Russia would appear to be at one with the other five Contact Group countries in trying to persuade Yugoslavia to agree to Western plans for a settlement with the Kosovo Albanians, the Russian people remain firmly behind their historic allies. Russia's links with fellow Orthodox Slav Serbia go back for centuries, and throughout the recent slaughter in Croatia and Bosnia, Russia has remained an apologist for the Serbs.

The conflict in Kosovo is seen in Russia as an attempt by the legitimate Serbian authorities to deal with terrorist Albanian insurgents. Russian press reports portray civilian casualties in the conflict as unfortunate victims caught in crossfire rather than as the victims of brutal massacre.

When Nato first threatened military action against the Serbs, the headline in the Russian paper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* read: "Nato takes Kosovo under its wings — or the wings of its bombers."

The fear is that, once influence over some Slavs has been ceded to the West, it will not be long before Russia too is forced to bow to what is perceived as American-led aggression. It is a deep-seated sense of a Slav brotherhood that unites Serbia and Russia against Muslims in the area.

Galina Sorokina, a former chairwoman of the Central Committee of Public Services and Local Industry of the USSR, sums up the Russian view: "If we start supporting the Albanians in their bid for autonomy, we will have to support the Chechens in theirs."

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### British ski firms in French court

**Paris:** Two British tour operators and the owner of an alpine ski school are being prosecuted in an Albertville court in a legal row over British ski instructors' qualifications (Susan Bell writes).

Jean-Yves Lapeyrère, who runs Ski Cocktail in Albertville, was charged with inciting eight British instructors to break French law by refusing to make them take extra tests. If found guilty, he could be jailed for up to a year and fined Fr100,000 (£10,000). In a separate case, Leonard Silver, 67, of Maidstone, Kent, and Brian Sill, 49, of Kendal, Cumbria, who own Silverski, are accused of letting three British "chalet boys" supervise clients without ski instructors' certificates.

### Zimbabwe mercy plea

**Harare:** Richard Gladwell McGown, 61, the Scottish anaesthetist, made a last-minute appeal to President Mugabe of Zimbabwe to spare him from serving a six-month prison sentence for negligently causing the deaths of two black children (Michael Hartnack writes). McGown, who should have surrendered to prison authorities on Saturday, hired an African lawyer to petition Mr Mugabe to invoke his powers of clemency and convert the jail term to community service.

### Child rapes double

**Johannesburg:** More than 14,000 children were reported to have been raped in South Africa in 1998, Police Commissioner Neels Steenkamp told a conference on crimes against children, held in South Africa's Northern Province. He said the figure had almost doubled since 1994, when 7,559 cases were reported, lending credence to claims that South Africa was the "rape capital of the world". *(AFP)*

### Sex tourists warned

**Paris:** Passengers on Air France flights to Asia are being shown an in-flight video warning them of the penalties for sexually abusing children while on holiday (Susan Bell writes). The film, in French and English, was made in association with the Bangkok-based pressure group, End Child Prostitution and Trafficking, and cautions passengers that they can be prosecuted in their own country for child sex abuse.

### War crimes denied



**Zagreb:** The last known Second World War concentration camp commander, Dinko Sakic, right, pleaded not guilty at the start of his trial here to charges of war crimes. Mr Sakic, 77, the first member of the fascist Ustashe regime to be tried for war crimes since Croatia became independent from Yugoslavia in 1991, denied responsibility for the deaths of at least 2,000 people. *(Reuters)*

### UN helicopter lost

**New York:** A United Nations helicopter with 13 people on board has disappeared in Haiti, a UN spokesman said. The MI8, carrying six Argentine and one US passenger, left Port-au-Prince on Sunday night, but radio contact was lost minutes later. A search for the helicopter, crewed by six Russians, has so far found no trace. *(AFP)*

# Arrogance proved Cresson's downfall

**Charles Bremner** reports from Brussels on the dynamic but chaotic career of a woman dubbed 'Edith-la-Flamboyante'

FRENCH honour may be at stake in the scandal surrounding Edith Cresson, the European Commissioner at the heart of the Brussels sleaze affair, but her expected downfall holds no great surprise for the French establishment.

Long known as "Edith-la-Flamboyante", the former Prime Minister, now aged 65, was viewed in Paris as a dynamic but unpredictable outsider whose disdain for the rules could drive her to disaster.

In 1994, when President Mitterrand insisted on sending his longtime protégée to Brussels, Edouard Balladur, who was then Prime Minister, tried to block what he considered to be a high-risk appointment.

The chaotic ten-month premiership of the woman whom Mitterrand used to refer to as "my little soldier" was proof enough of her shaky leadership skills, the French Prime Minister argued. Mme Cresson's habit of skirting convention has helped to bring about her likely political disgrace as the main target of the independent inquiry into Commissioners' conduct. It has also handed the Socialist politician fuel for her belief that for the second time she is serving as a scapegoat for the sins of a wider culture.

> ‘Disdain for rules could drive her to disaster’

As the report last night by five independent experts, including two former EU auditors, made clear, the European Commission suffers from broad failures of management, most kindly defined as a lack of rigour that hails from an easier age of administration. Cronyism, political patronage and tolerance of dubious practices have long been a feature in a body that was launched in the 1950s as a supranational elite based on the senior ranks of the French civil service.

The Commission crisis started by the European Parliament in January is now forcing a purge that was inevitable, given the administration's failure to enforce modern management methods.

Although Jacques Santer, the President, is carrying the blame for weak leadership, many inside the Commission point the finger of blame at Jacques Delors, his French Socialist predecessor, who was famous for neglecting the housekeeping side of his leadership while pursuing his grand vision of a united Europe from 1985 to 1995. Mme Cresson has borne the brunt of anger over nepotism because of disclosures of her appointment of a dentist friend and five other associates to well-paid posts at the Commission. Lesser complaints were aired against Manuel Marín, the Spanish Commissioner for overseas aid, and João Pinheiro, the Portuguese Commissioner for relations with Africa and the Pacific countries.

The report criticised Señor Marín for lax control over the running of an aid scheme for Mediterranean nations, for irregularities in hiring officials and for doing too little too late to stop fraud in the European Union's humanitarian aid budget which was handled through a Luxembourg contractor in the early 1990s. In defending themselves, Mr Santer and his colleagues are blaming a lack of personnel. With 17,000 employees, the staff of a large city's administration, the Commission is expected to administer the EU's budget of £60 billion a year while enforcing EU law and launching new legislation. The biggest fraud, the Commission argues, is committed in spending programmes run by the member states, notably in the area of farm subsidies and customs duty. The Commission's workload has led to much contracting to outside agencies, the main area of frauds identified by auditors, the Parliament and whistle-blowers.

VINCENT A. KESSLER / REUTERS



Edith Cresson: French administrative establishment viewed her as an unpredictable outsider

Belgian police are investigating two alleged swindles involving an agency contracted to Mme Cresson's education division, but these are eclipsed by far bigger affairs, involving tens of millions of pounds, in other directorates, notably the humanitarian aid programmes.

Other Commission heads may roll, but Mme Cresson sealed her fate with her refusal to accept blame and her defiant approach to her parliamentary inquisitors. In the eyes of MEPs, including some of her French Socialist colleagues, her appearances before the Parliament have been a tour de force of arrogance. With her back to the wall over her favours to friends, she asked a panel of questioning MEPs: "Are we supposed to work only with people we do not know?" That contrasted with the contrite air adopted by Señor Marín, who mollified MEPs by acknowledging failures.

> ‘To win a contract, you have to belly dance’

Mme Cresson sees herself as a victim of political machinations orchestrated from Germany with the aim of undermining French prestige at a time when Germany is trying to assert its power in Europe. That view is shared by Spanish and other Mediterranean socialists who see a political hand behind the whole affair.

Over dinner in her Brussels flat during the past month, she has held forth to visitors on her feelings of injustice that go back to 1992 when she was pilloried by Socialist colleagues and the media and summarily dismissed by Mitterrand as the shortest-serving French Prime Minister of modern times. She was ditched then, she believes, because she was forced to carry the can for the troubles of the Mitterrand Admistration. This time, she says, she is guilty of no behaviour that is not standard in the French administrative culture.

However, even within the colourful annals of the Mitterrand court, Mme Cresson stood out as a loose cannon.

Unlike most people appointed by Mitterrand, who came from the technocratic elite, Mme Cresson had caught Mitterrand's eye while working as a lowly member of his campaign staff. The former Edith Campion had entered politics at the late age of 31 after a bourgeois youth that had included education at the hands of an English governess and a degree in commercial studies.

Pugnacious and dynamic, she established herself as a political "tough guy" while also openly trading on her unquestionable feminine charm. No unattractive woman could succeed in politics, she said once. Appointed as a minister during Mitterrand's first term, in the early 1980s, she said that seductiveness was part of a woman politician's arsenal. "To win a contract, you have to harass, perform a belly dance if necessary," she said.

Some of her fiercest critics still acknowledge the charm, which remains formidable despite a bout of illness during the past 18 months.

Leading article, page 19

# Minister rebuffs critics to back Leonardo restorers

**Richard Owen** on the furore over a project lasting 20 years

GIOVANNA MELANDRI, the Italian Culture Minister, yesterday stepped into a mounting controversy over the restoration of Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper*, now in its final stages.

She said during a visit to the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, where the the work covers one wall of the refectory, that despite international criticism she had "every confidence" that the restored painting would be a "fitting tribute" to the greatness of Leonardo when it is unveiled in May after 20 years of renovation. Officials said the visit was a demonstration of the Italian Government's trust in the beleaguered restoration team, headed by Giuseppina Brambilla, a Milan-based restorer who started work on the project in 1978.

Signora Melandri said the restoration made an "extraordinary impact" and was "proof of the excellence of Italian restoration". But critics said Leonardo's masterpiece, which was decaying and faded when Signora Brambilla began her attempt to salvage it, had been "not so much restored as repainted".

James Beck, professor of art history at Columbia University and head of ArtWatch International, a private charity which monitors art restoration, said: "What visitors will see is not Leonardo any more, it is a modern replacement. At most, only 20 per cent of what remains is original." The restorers had used watercolours to "fill in the gaps".

Pietro Marani, who is overseeing the restoration for the Culture Ministry, said the restorers were only "removing what was painted on top of Leonardo over the centuries. We will be seeing the original for the first time".

*La Repubblica* said Italy had "the best restorers in the world. If you believe critics like Professor Beck, Italy gets it wrong the moment it touches anything of historic and artistic value, from the Tower of Pisa to the Sistine Chapel. But if our art restoration schools are so incompetent, how come they are full of foreign students learning Italian techniques?"

Carlo Bertelli, head of the Italian Central Institute of Restoration, said the *Last Supper* project was "the most difficult restoration of century, including the restoration of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. We have saved a masterpiece."

Signora Brambilla declared: "Those who accuse me of ruining the painting are a long way from the truth. If I had wanted to repaint the *Last Supper* it would have taken a month, not 20 years."

# Kurdish rebels warn tourists to keep out of Turkey

By Andrew Finkel in Istanbul and Michael Binyon

KURDISH rebels attacked Turkey's £5 billion tourist industry yesterday by warning foreigners to keep out of the country.

"All Turkey is a battlefield, including those areas designated for tourism," a statement issued for the armed wing of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) through the German-based DEM agency said. The statement, referring to the capture last month of Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader, accused America, Israel and "some European countries" of engaging in terrorism and piracy. It added: "It is essential that no tourist comes to Turkey, that governments warn their citizens and that travel companies cancel reservations."

The Foreign Office was holding talks with the British Embassy in Ankara yesterday to see whether it should advise tourists not to visit Turkey. Diplomats were also talking to travel firms about the warning.

The Foreign Office stiffened its travel advice yesterday in any case after recent bombings and attacks in Istanbul and elsewhere. It drew attention to the dangers of visiting certain parts of the country, and said that tensions had increased after the arrest of Mr Ocalan.

"There has been a substantial number of terrorist incidents and public disturbances in Istanbul and sporadic attacks elsewhere in the country," the latest advisory note said. It added that there was unrest in the emergency-rule provinces of Van, Hakkari, Sirnak, Tunceli, Diyarbakir and Siirt in the southeast.

Officials added that they were considering more explicit warnings after the PKK statement yesterday. However any blanket warning against visiting Turkey would have a devastating impact on Turkey's tourism and economy. Britons form one of the largest groups of visitors and British tour operators pay close attention to Foreign Office advice.

This is not the first time that the PKK has warned foreigners not to take their holidays in Turkey. In most cases the threat of violence has been enough to discourage visitors in a sector that provides direct employment for an estimated million people. In 1994, a bomb did go off in the coastal city of Marmaris, killing a 24-year-old British woman.

MED-TV, a London-based television station sympathetic to the PKK's political position, denied a report that it had carried a news item saying that the warning had been retracted. "As far as we know, it still stands," a station employee said yesterday.

Turkish public opinion continues to be shocked by the fire bombing of an Istanbul clothing store in which 13 people died. "Don't give in," a headline in the newspaper *Milliyet* said in recognition of a new nervousness that has kept people at home and away from the cinema and crowded places. However the violence continued yesterday with a bomb explosion outside the European Union office in Ankara. A passer-by was injured.

# Jordan protests at Israeli water cut

From Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

SEVERE water shortages yesterday plunged Israeli-Jordanian relations into their first crisis since the accession of King Abdullah II after Israel said it could no longer meet its commitment to provide its Arab neighbour with the set amount of water.

The new dispute, the result of a drought affecting both countries, has underscored repeated warnings by Western experts that water rather than oil could be the prime cause of regional conflict in the next millennium.

In a related development, 600 Bedouin have entered Israel illegally from Sinai — land returned to Egypt under the 1979 peace treaty — and asked for asylum, claiming that their action was taken as a result of hunger arising from the drought, Israeli police reported last night.

The police quoted some of the Bedouin who crossed illegally into the northern Negev desert as claiming that hundreds more intended to do likewise. "They arrived in whole families, with their camels and donkeys, and infiltrated into Israeli territory on the night of Sunday to Monday," Shalom Hemo, police spokeman, said.

Naser Lauzi, the Jordanian Information Minister, responded to the Israeli water restrictions by announcing that they will be rejected. "Jordan insists on the full implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, and rejects any change in its terms," he said.

The crisis erupted after Israel informed Jordan that its annual allocation of water to the Hashemite kingdom, set by terms of the 1994 peace treaty at 55 million cubic metres, would be cut by 50 per cent. "I have a bucket of water and it is empty," Meir Ben-Meir, the Water Commissioner, said.

Mr Ben-Meir revealed that the Sea of Galilee, Israel's main reservoir of drinking water, was at its lowest level since 1908. "We must face the facts; it is impossible that Israel should have to carry out the burden of this severe drought," he added. "We are suffering a deficit of 60 per cent in the Sea of Galilee this year. Jordan is suffering a similar deficit in our mutual source, the Yarmuk River, so I proposed to the Jordanians that we both share the deficit."

Israel is bound to supply the 55 million cubic metres annually from the Yarmuk River, which runs into the Sea of Galilee between Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The Yarmuk's headwaters rise in Syria, and diplomats believe that the river has the potential to be an explosive issue in a region fraught with political and environmental threats.

Both Israel and Jordan have complained about unilateral Syrian actions which have affected the quality and level of the river.

Kamil Mahadin, the Jordanian Water Minister, told the BBC that Jordan was facing water cuts anyway, and Israel had no right to ask Jordan to share Israel's difficulties. "This agreement is binding."

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, tried to play down the crisis, which followed criticism by the new Hashemite monarch about Israel's refusal to implement key sections of the Wye peace accord with the Palestinians. "We have been more than forthcoming in the water arrangements," Mr Netanyahu claimed. "We have gone well beyond some of the provisions."

Lack of water is an emotive issue on the Jordanian political agenda. Last summer a scandal over foul-tasting and evil-smelling drinking water in Amman led to the sacking of the then Water Minister and helped to undercut the standing of the then regent, Prince Hassan, who was later deposed as heir by King Hussein shortly before his death.






LINKS

http://www.info.gov.il — Israeli Information Gateway.
http://www.nic.gov.jo — Jordan site.
http://www.gwpforum.org — Global Water Partnership Water Forum.
http://www.unep.org/ — UN agency.



Sheridan: no evidence of serious corruption

# Games verdict: Sydney broke the rules

From Roger Maynard in Sydney



Michael Knight, Australia's Olympics minister, responds to the findings yesterday

AN official report issued yesterday after an inquiry into Sydney's successful bid to host the 2000 Olympics found that there were repeated breaches of International Olympic Committee guidelines but no evidence of serious bribery or corruption.

The finding came as pressure grew for the resignation of the Australian IOC member, Phil Coles, from the Sydney organising committee, after he was given a "most serious warning" for accepting expenses-paid holidays from future Winter Olympics host Salt Lake City.

During a day of intense scrutiny into Sydney's campaign to host next year's Olympics, it was claimed that IOC members were given red-carpet treatment to persuade them to award the Games to the Australian city and not to its main rival, Beijing.

Tom Sheridan, a lawyer appointed by the New South Wales government to hold an independent investigation into Sydney's bid conduct, said hundreds of thousands of pounds had been spent on gifts to IOC members, ranging from clothes to sumptuous dinners. Some members were offered excursions to Australia's Great Barrier Reef, while others enjoyed paid stopovers in Asia en route to Sydney.

While Mr Sheridan said that he had uncovered nothing on the scale of the inducements offered to IOC members visiting Salt Lake City, he criticised the bid company for arranging the transport of seven wild Mongolian horses to Mongolia to satisfy the Mongolian IOC member, Shagdarjav Magvan.

Michael Knight, the New South Wales Olympics minister, yesterday joined calls for Mr Coles to stand down after accepting gifts.

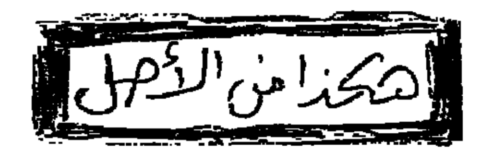












# ‘Secret stores’ of smallpox virus fuel terror fears

## Scientists want to retain official stocks, reports Ben Macintyre in Washington

AMERICAN government scientists gave a warning yesterday that destroying the last live laboratory samples of smallpox virus could leave the world prey to attack by terrorists who may be hiding secret stocks of the disease for use as a biological weapon.

Smallpox, or *Variola virus*, was officially eradicated in 1980, and in 1996 the World Health Organisation reached a consensus recommending that all remaining official stocks of smallpox be incinerated next June. Scientists now fear, however, that samples of the virus may have fallen into the hands of terrorist groups or outlaw states with potentially catastrophic consequences. Pressure is mounting to retain some samples of the virus that could be used to create anti-viral drugs and a new vaccine against the disease.

In a report for the US Government published yesterday, a panel of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine concluded that the existing stocks of smallpox offered "the chance to develop new anti-viral agents to protect citizens against a future outbreak of smallpox which could occur, for example, as the result of a bio-terrorist attack". The panel feared that "an attack with smallpox could be especially lethal because people are no longer vaccinated against the disease".

In theory, the smallpox virus now exists in two government-run US and Russian laboratories, in Alabama and Siberia, but many scientists believe that samples are also being held in secret elsewhere.

"One would have to be ridiculously optimistic to conclude that there are only two locations in the world where smallpox is stored," Amy Smithson, an expert on biological weapons, told *The Washington Post*. Donald Henderson, the US doctor who led the battle to wipe out smallpox in the 1960s and 1970s, said there was "no question" that stocks of the virus in Russia could be restricted to the Siberian laboratory.

Before a 20-year international medical campaign finally wiped out the disease, the highly contagious virus killed and scarred millions. Death followed for one in five of all who became infected.

The last recorded case happened in Birmingham in 1978, when the virus escaped from a laboratory, killing one person and pushing the scientist in charge of the laboratory to suicide. Smallpox samples in laboratories around the world were progressively destroyed throughout the 1980s, but the Soviet Union continued to create vast amounts of the virus long after signing a 1972 treaty outlawing production.

Ken Alibek, a former official at the Siberian laboratory in Koltsovo who defected to the US in 1992, told Congress last year that the Soviet Union had not only produced "hundreds of tonnes of anthrax ... along with dozens of tonnes of smallpox and plague", but had also created hybrid, possibly vaccine-resistant, strains of smallpox, by genetic "splicing" with other diseases.

Supporters of the plan to destroy remaining stocks argue that any attempt to use smallpox as a biological weapon would be seen as a "horrendous crime against humanity" and that even the most extreme terrorist or pariah state would shy away from such a move. It is also argued that retaining even a small stock of the virus poses a far greater security threat than ordering its formal destruction.

In May, representatives of the World Health Organisation's 190 member states will meet in Geneva to review the decision on incinerating the remaining stocks of virus on June 30. It is unlikely to pass the resolution to eradicate the virus stocks if both the US and Russia oppose the move — and a plague that was soon to have been rendered officially extinct may be granted a last-minute reprieve.



Seoul family, in a monthly defence drill yesterday, prepare for an attack by the North Koreans



FERNANDO SANCHEZ / AP

## Worldly win for Miss Universe

**Irene Sáez, a former Miss Universe, celebrates her election as Governor of Margarita, a leading Venezuelan tourist island, with nearly 71 per cent of the vote. Señora Sáez, 37, who came a distant third in Venezuelan presidential elections three months ago, is now expected to make a quick return to the national political stage she dominated as a leader in opinion polls in 1996 and 1997. Proclaimed Miss Universe in 1981, she gained a reputation for efficiency and honesty during two terms as mayor of an affluent district of Caracas, the Venezuelan capital. The Margarita post became vacant in January after the death of Rafael Tovar, a newly re-elected Governor. Señora Sáez was backed by a hotchpotch of parties, including the ruling Fifth Republic Movement. *(Reuters)***

## ‘Mother is to blame’

**Washington: Boys whose mothers smoked during pregnancy are more likely to grow up to be criminals or act violently, new research says (Damian Whitworth writes).**

**Damage to the nervous system, it appears, may be the cause of behaviour that can last into adulthood. The study, from Emory University in Atlanta, found that the effect transcends class: even after social factors, parental psychiatric problems and the father's criminal history were taken into account, the link between ante-natal smoking and law-breaking remained.**

## Clintons present a united front

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

BILL and Hillary Clinton last night put on a united front in the face of reports that their marriage is at breaking point.

Mrs Clinton, who either has a bad back or cannot bear to be in her husband's company depending on whether you believe her office or a string of news stories, was co-hosting a millennium event with the President at the White House at which some of the century's greatest women were to be celebrated.

She is also expected to appear at a St Patrick's Day reception with Mr Clinton tomorrow and is scheduled to join him at another event on Thursday.

The first thaw in their reportedly chilly relations came on Sunday, when Mrs Clinton braved a wintry Washington day to join her husband at church. The First Lady, a Methodist, often leaves her husband to attend the Foundry United Methodist Church alone on Sundays. But they were all smiles as they arrived together to hear the pastor, Philip Wogaman, deliver a sermon on the "disciplines of love".

Mrs Clinton is under intense scrutiny after she abandoned plans to travel with the President to Central America last week. She caused further comment when she left Mr Clinton to make a sentimental journey alone to his birthplace of Hope, Arkansas.

At the dedication of the wooden home where he lived as a boy, Mr Clinton described himself as "far from perfect" but thanked friends for standing by him and repeated his famous line from the 1992 campaign: "I still believe in a place called Hope."

According to her office, Mrs Clinton had a bad back and had been unable to travel. She remained at the White House talking to advisers about a possible run for the Senate from New York.

However, one of a number of news reports about frozen relations between the couple said that she had stayed behind because she did not want people to note that she wanted a separate room from her husband. She was quoted as saying: "I don't want to be in the same room as him, let alone the same bed."

Blazing rows were also reported as the reason the couple cut short their recent skiing trip to Utah.

# Don't waste your doctor's time

Each day GPs see an estimated 300,000 people who do not need medical attention. They are to blame for a sluggish NHS, says **Christine Webber**

It is Monday morning. A panic-stricken woman who has just found a lump in her breast is phoning the health centre — only to find that there are no appointments available until Friday.

Meanwhile, a suicidal undergraduate is trying to ring the same practice. He is calling from a public telephone box, which other students are queueing up to use. The persistently "busy" signal is a further calamity in a day that has started badly. He gives up and goes for a walk by the river.

A woman doubled up with menstrual pain is also phoning the surgery. She persuades the practice manager that she must be seen that day and is given an emergency appointment — but not until late afternoon.

And an elderly gentleman who has finally plucked up the courage to ask for help with impotence phones the health centre but cannot bring himself to tell the harassed-sounding receptionist the nature of his problem. Her brisk tone and the indignity of his situation reduce him to tears.

What do these four people feel about their encounter with the NHS? They feel it has failed them — and so it has. But whom should they blame? The usual suspects are the Government for not allocating sufficient funds, the doctors for not being efficient enough and all those administrators — just because they are there. However, the plight of these genuinely sick people must be apportioned elsewhere. It is other patients who are to blame: selfish, irresponsible and demanding patients who visit the surgery unnecessarily, clogging up the system and wasting doctors' time and the country's money.

Recently I spent a morning counselling at a London practice where my husband works part-time as a GP. I was appalled at how many people were abusing the system by coming in with conditions — such as the common cold — that would get better of their own accord. It is undoubtedly true that most of them were feeling miserable and quite poorly — the waiting room was awash with people sneezing over each other — but what were they expecting the doctors to do? Doesn't everyone who hasn't been on the Moon for 30 years know that there is no cure for a cold?

What was needed, I felt, was for one brave doctor to stand up in the middle of all this snuffly humanity and send the lot home. Instead, for the next four hours, a constant stream of cold-sufferers coughed their way along the corridor to one of the duty GPs and emerged minutes later clutching a prescription for medicine that most medics will agree was unnecessary.

To be fair there were people there that day who definitely did need medical attention — tiny children, the elderly and asthmatics. But the vast majority of patients that morning should have stayed at home, taken an aspirin with a hot lemon and honey drink and resigned themselves to the fact that they would feel lousy for a few days but would then recover.

> Doesn't everyone know that there is no cure for a cold?

Of course, it isn't just people with colds who cause a logjam in the health system. While I was at that surgery a woman with a hacking cough visited my husband. "Do you smoke?" he asked.

"Only 20 a day."

"Would you like to make a longer appointment for another day so we can discuss ways of giving up?"

"No thanks. I like smoking."

"But your cough won't get better until you stop."

"I don't think anyone's proved that. What I want is some Vibramycin — that generally puts me right."

Then there was the mother who demanded tranquillisers for her 17-year-old daughter because she was about to take her driving test. The mother could not see that if her youngster were drugged to the eyeballs she might constitute a danger on the road, and was incandescent with rage when her request was refused.

Another patient — a lad of 16 — arrived with a sporting injury. He had hurt his ankle playing rugby over the weekend and had gone to casualty for an X-ray. My husband was surprised to see him. "What did they tell you at the A&E department?"

"Nothing broken. I've just got to keep my foot up for a few days."

"That was only two days ago. Why are you here?"

"It's still hurting."

"It *will* hurt. You've done quite a lot of damage."

"Can't you inject it or something? They didn't say I'd have any pain."

That is the crux of the problem. Over the past half-century people have come to believe that it is their right not only to be cured but also to be relieved, instantly, of any pain or discomfort. It is this expectation of an NHS magic wand — something that even Aneurin Bevan at his most optimistic never promised — that results in hordes of patients abusing the NHS at primary-care level.

I estimate that every doctor sees a minimum of five time-wasting patients at every surgery. He takes two surgeries daily and there are 30,000 GPs in this country. So nationwide, every day, doctors are seeing 300,000 people more than they need to. That's a lot of doctors' hours. If half these patients walk out with a prescription, it adds up to a significant amount of money, too.

We all hear stories of people being denied expensive drugs for cancer, infertility, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's and the like. My belief is that if we all used the health service more wisely, then funds could be found for patients like these who desperately need it. And apart from the financial aspect, it is clear that the volume of time-wasting patients means that very often really sick people are not examined properly because the GP does not have enough time.

So what can be done? A GP friend has a fantasy in which he issues yellow cards temporarily banning patients who misuse the system. But it's only a dream.

In reality we need the Government to acknowledge the problem and to devise guidelines on the appropriate use of the NHS. If people can be taught to be more considerate of the environment, or to accept that benefits are not limitless, they can surely learn to treat the health service with respect. This Government is powerful and popular enough to act, and it must — probably in conjunction with a doctors' representative body and the Patients' Association. Whatever form their intervention takes it needs to happen quickly, otherwise the poor NHS, which at 51 is already looking menopausal, will decline rapidly into senility.

● *The author is a psychotherapist.*




JOANNE O'BRIEN / FORMAT

Waiting to see the doctor: "Very often really sick people are not examined properly because the GP simply does not have enough time"



# Detecting thyroid disease

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Nearly one in ten people over 65 has thyroid disease. It may be detected through routine medical examinations and blood tests, or because an astute doctor has noticed the symptoms when a patient has come about another problem.

In all age groups thyroid symptoms often start insidiously. Further diagnostic delay occurs in older age groups as the disease presents itself in a different way in those who are younger. Two journals, *Hospital Medicine* and *The Practitioner*, recently dealt with the difficulties that this causes for the over-65s. Eight out of ten cases of thyroid disease in older people are the result of too little thyroid, known as hypothyroidism, or myxoedema, often the result of earlier thyroiditis. Once this settles the gland becomes shrunken, fibrotic and underactive.

Twenty years ago a young artist developed Hashimoto's disease, a chronic inflammation of the thyroid that tends to affect younger age groups, and women rather than men. She initially had some treatment for overactivity of the gland but although advised that she would need, sooner or later, to start thyroid replacement therapy, she ignored the advice as being medical alarmism. Years later she was seen again, by which time she was anaemic, very overweight, had dry skin and lacklustre hair, a slow pulse rate, low blood pressure and felt permanently lethargic. She had developed the sparse eyebrows characteristic of thyroid disease, with the outer third missing, and a husky voice.

In other cases there are also changes in the cardiovascular system, including arteries that have furred up as a result of high levels of serum fats, such as cholesterol, damage to the heart itself, and the collection of fluid within the pericardium, the sac in which the heart lies. Other patients are left with too little thyroid after surgery, and the gland may have been affected by other diseases or the drugs used to treat them.

Secondary hypothyroidism may stem from the failure of the hypothalamus or the pituitary gland to produce the hormone that stimulates the thyroid. Treatment is with thyroxine. The dose must be closely monitored when this replacement hormone is first introduced. If the heart has been beating slowly for years and its arteries are clogged as a result of raised cholesterol, a sudden increase in demand from it as a result of giving more thyroxine may push it beyond its limits and can even lead to a heart attack. Once a stable state has been reached, frequent monitoring is unnecessary, but patients must take thyroxine for the rest of their days.

In older patients the symptoms of a hyperactive thyroid may not be obvious. They may suffer from increasingly poor appetite, cold skin and deterioration in their senses, including hearing and intellect — symptoms that are all too commonly present even if the older person has a normal thyroid. Before Alzheimer's disease, for instance, is diagnosed, blood tests to assess thyroid hormone levels are essential.

Patients with overactivity usually display nervousness, and notice the heat, so that there is increased sweating. Their hearts race and they complain of palpitations and associated breathlessness. They, or their families, will have noticed that they have developed a fine shake. Vision may be blurred, the eyes may be prominent. Despite a voracious appetite, they will have regularly lost weight and may also become very overactive, sleepless and irritable.

In old age these striking symptoms can be missing, but the patients may be suffering from so-called apathetic hyperthyroidism. They may just appear rather weak and breathless. More than 50 per cent of older patients with an overactive thyroid have atrial fibrillation, or irregular heartbeat. Any weight loss may be attributed to depression, lethargy and failure to eat.

For the very young or those with big thyroids, overactive glands can be treated with surgery. Older patients may have radioactive iodine. Generally, the standard treatment is tablets, especially carbimazole.

# What does it feel like to die?

## Susan Minot has devoted five years to writing about death. But her book is uplifting. Interview by **Janine di Giovanni**

A woman in her sixties, once beautiful and vibrant, lies dying in a house in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her four children, the products of three marriages, drift in and out of the room, watching her, holding her hand, listening to her incoherent talk. As she falls in and out of consciousness, monitored by a faintly sinister Irish nurse wielding a syringe of morphine, she recalls fragments of her life: her first marriage, her youthful career as a singer, her second husband, her country club years, the birth of her children. And a weekend at a wedding in Maine when she was in her early twenties and met the love of her life.

It was a one-night stand. The man — or boy, rather — went off and married a glamorous Italian; but for Ann, the protagonist, the night was a pivotal moment. Throughout her life she buried that night's memory, but on her deathbed she remembers infinite details: the smell of the North Atlantic; the scent of balsam; the memory of her lover's voice; the dark sunglasses he wore when they first met; the straightness of his back. As she lies dying, wasting away, that night comes back to her in a thousand different ways.

*Evening* is a book about dying and death, but it is not depressing. Rather, it is uplifting because it is about the richness of memory. The author, Susan Minot, quotes William Faulkner in the beginning, and it is a good choice: "I give it to you not that you may remember time, but that you might forget it now and then for a moment and not spend all your breath trying to conquer it." Like Faulkner's classic *As I Lay Dying*, *Evening* is not only about remembering, but also about forgetting. "It is also about the unreliability of memories," Minot points out. "Ann doesn't remember Harris, her lover, so much as she remembers the balsam-scented cushion."

Anyone who has ever sat in on a death vigil, holding the hand of someone they love, listening to them talk — sometimes uttering nonsense, sometimes extraordinary revelations — will understand this novel. Minot has sat through many and admits that she has had a longstanding obsession with death. "It's a given; it's like breathing air," she says.

The book, which took five years to write, is dedicated to three people: friends who died suddenly and horribly in a short space of time. That was not Minot's first experience of death. When she was 21 her mother was killed in a freak accident when her car was hit by a train after an ice storm: a few months later both her grandmothers died. "That was the year all the mothers died," she says.

Although it was not relevant to the writing of the book, when we meet she is recovering from the death of her father George a month earlier from cancer. Unlike her mother, who died suddenly, he died within a few months of cancer being diagnosed. "I don't know which is worse, sudden death or lingering," she says.

> 'I wanted to write about what it feels like to die'

She was with her father at the end. She had finished writing *Evening* by then, but it was an eerie, terrible coincidence that he died in bed, "looking out through his canopy at a painting of the charge on Gettysburg". It is such details that people remember when they sit with a dying friend or relative: and this book could not have such emotional resonance had Minot *not* experienced, or lived through, those things.

"I wanted to write about what it feels like to die," she says. "My first encounter with the deathbed vigil was my grandmother, then my friends ... and when someone dies, at the end they always have a similar face. I was drawn into the disturbance of it."

I know from experience that it is not easy to write about death, in particular the death of a parent. I am writing a book about the death of my own father, and it is the most difficult thing I have ever done, like reaching down into some horrible hole and not knowing what you will pull out and knowing that it is going to hurt like hell. In one haunting scene in *Evening* the doctor tells Ann Lord that she will not be alive in a few months to watch the changing of the autumn leaves. It is a startling moment: the inevitable confrontation with her death, and the helplessness felt by those around her.

"If you watch someone close to you die you know that there is a huge gulf between you and them," says Minot. "You can hold their hand, but illness is very isolating." The after-effect is also devastating. Minot says that she was "stunned" for years after her own mother died, that it took a long time for the resonance of it to go away.

Minot is tiny and blonde and wears rings on many fingers. Her publicist says she looks like Sharon Stone, which is not altogether true — she is good-looking, but it is an old-fashioned New England preppy look, not a glamorous one. Minot looks very much like what she is — the product of an old, extended (seven children) Boston Catholic family: lots of prep schools, Ivy League universities, Kennedys, sailing, four sisters hanging out together, and big white clapboard houses overlooking the Atlantic.

To this is added her sophisticated element — I suspect that she probably loathes the American preppy scene. She is based in the West Village in New York but travels a great deal, packing everything into two bags and taking off for London, Rome, Africa or Egypt. She stays with friends in apartments in Rome or mud huts in the Masai Mara overlooking a bend in the river. She has friends everywhere, and everyone adores her. But she is also extremely disciplined. "I stay in friends' houses when I am writing, but I tell people 'No, I can't have lunch, but I can meet you in the evenings'," she says. "Then I just go to my room and write."

It is an enviable life, but it is also highly disciplined. Still in her early forties, she has written four books, a screenplay for Bernardo Bertolucci, a screenplay of *Evening* for Disney Films, and has already started another screenplay and a new novel.

Unlike her American literary contemporaries, Minot has something of an edge, a classiness, a style of writing that would be more at home 100 years ago than today. One could not imagine her penning *American Psycho*, for instance: there is more of the Edith Wharton, the elegant observer, about her. "Sue is like something out of another century," says her great friend, the screenwriter Zara Colchester. "Like a Victorian lady traveller, always taking her box of paints and her notebook wherever she goes. The only modern thing she does is e-mail."

Minot laughs at this, but it is true. She takes her watercolours everywhere: the producer Julian Ozanne, with whom she is writing a script about the romance of Africa, says that when they broke down at a treacherous mountain pass while travelling in South Africa recently, she got out her sketchbook and sat on a rock and calmly began drawing. "She is the most self-contained person I know," he says.

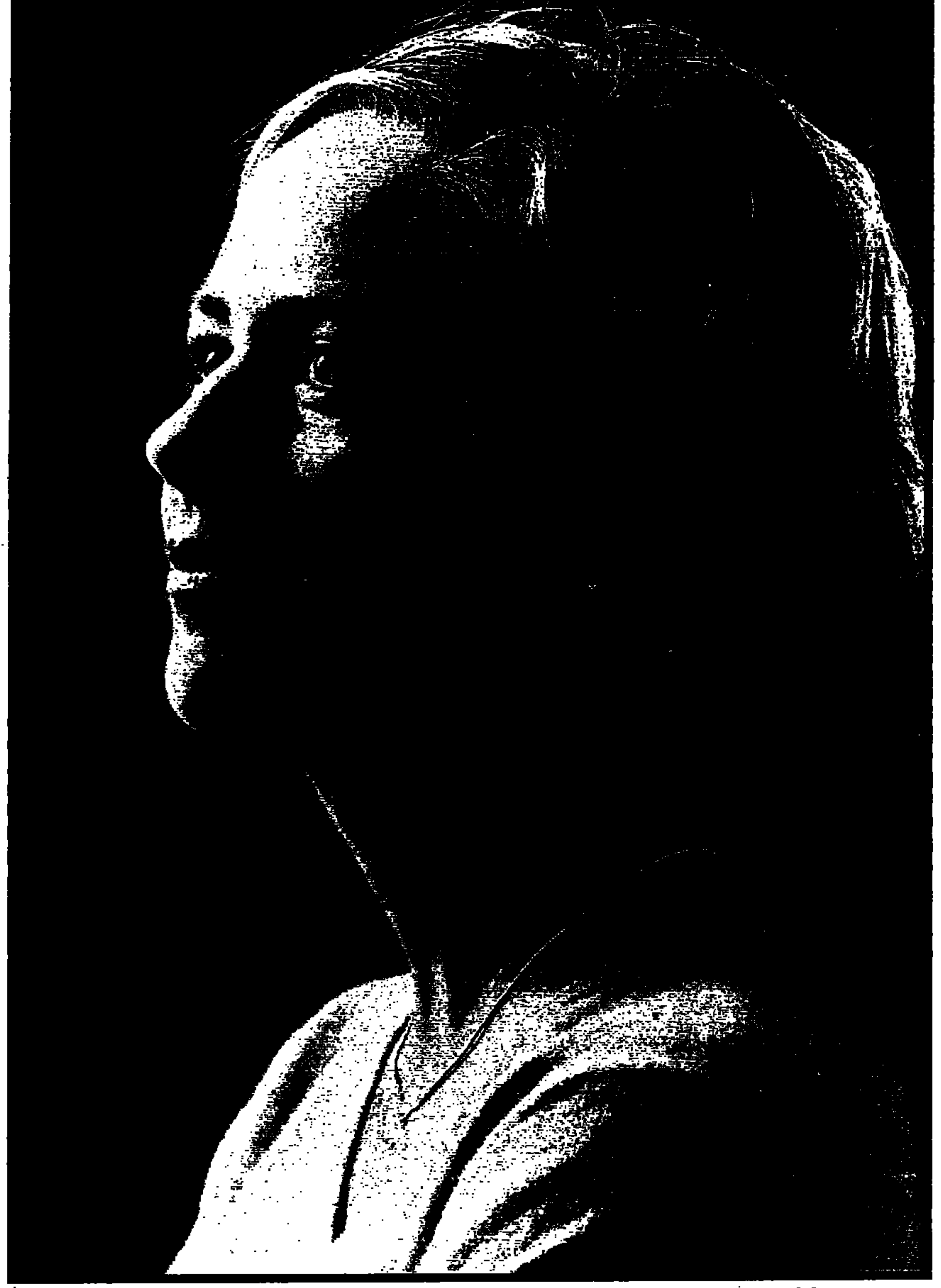
She writes everything in longhand, with a pen dipped in ink, and then transcribes it on to a manual typewriter. "It's the way I've always written," she says. "Nothing, not a computer or a typewriter, makes the process faster. It's a slow, slow process." When Bertolucci read one of her earlier novels, *Monkeys* (which is loosely based on her family life with her seven brothers and sisters), he rang and asked her to write the screenplay for *Stealing Beauty*, a film about a young American girl's coming of age in Tuscany. Minot conceded to write the screenplay, first by hand, then using a computer. I sense she was not happy about this.

There are not many people around brave enough to tackle the subject of death, failed love or memory: it is so much easier to write Bridget Jones-inspired rubbish. But this is timeless, classic stuff.

As Minot once said: "Knowing you are going to die is a shadow that waves over our lives. We manage for the most part not to think of it. For me, it's hard not to feel death as the thing underneath everything."

● Evening *is published by Chatto & Windus this month, £15.99.*

CHRIS HARRIS



Susan Minot: "If you watch someone die you know that there is a huge gulf between you and them"

# Every wedding list tells a story

## Gift services can reveal more about a couple than they really want, says **Grace Bradberry**

Could it be that James Major wishes to resume his career at Marks & Spencer? It seems funny, otherwise, that having spent the last year reinventing himself as a lad-about-town, he should choose to lodge his wedding list in Magnolia Land. You'd think a set of Metropolitan Bar ashtrays and a cocktail shaker would be more his line. But perhaps Emma Noble was in charge of the china department.

Whatever, Major Minor's wedding list provides an amusing contrast with that of Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones. The royal couple are directing their guests to Thomas Goode, the Mayfair store that specialises in baroque dinner services and ornaments so OTT that the uninformed eye would take them for market stall finds. A "cutlery canteen" can cost £4,000. Pity Sophie's friends as they phone Thomas Goode asking what there might be for £50. A teaspoon will be about the limit.

Wedding lists provide an opportunity for guests to assess the tastes and aspirations of friends. You may never have such a chance again. To make the most of it, adopt a cavalier attitude to the phone bill, drum up plenty of cheek and spend a good half-hour on the phone to the appropriate store, changing your mind about price range and asking for exact descriptions of the crockery. Finally, express a desire to buy "something a bit different" and you will discover their worst lapse of taste.

Of course, no true friend would indulge in such behaviour — but James and Emma and Edward and Sophie will be lucky if they do not have one or two guests who are secretly irked by their lifestyles.

James and Emma, who have been much photographed "swanning about", are probably wise not to provoke resentment with an aspirational wish list. Hence the absence, no doubt, of Versace tableware, Cactus loo brushes and Dualit toasters.

SEAN DEMPSEY

James and Emma: modest

Even if your entire extended family is riven by bitter divorce, nothing in the nuptial shenanigans will be as sensitive as the wedding list. I've known people choose two lists, one at John Lewis and one at the Conran shop, and point some guests to one, some to the other. That a few stores will allow couples to pool money spent, then redistribute it, is not something any bride or groom ever discusses. The "bonuses" paid to couples once the dosh has rolled in are equally hush-hush.

There is something oddly levelling about royal wedding lists. Muffled laughter and astonishment greeted Lady Helen Windsor and Tim Taylor's selection, which read like an Argos catalogue. Could it be that until their wedding day they had existed without a washing machine, video recorder and portable hi-fi? It seemed extraordinary — as did the request for a Kleenex box cover and a Super Nintendo. Eyebrows were raised at the other-worldliness of Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones and Daniel Chatto who wanted books of poetry and ceramic plates by Jean Cocteau.

There is a quid pro quo, however — the happy couple get to assess the extent of your generosity. Prince Edward is surely unlikely to do well out of the Linleys. When they married he splashed out precisely £52 on some cups and saucers.

# Tories have no right to be silent

## Hague must defend our public servants from the race radicals

Over the snap and crackle of the Rice Krispies, as the Pop-Tarts jump from the toaster, we can just make out the chit-chat of the kitchen table. The Tories have been listening to Britain, and father's grumbles at the rising cost of petrol strike a chord. But there are three themes that are durable conversational staples — the toast, butter and marmalade of kitchen-table talk. They are health, education and crime. The Conservative guest types the trio into his Psion organiser and withdraws with polite thanks.

It was Michael Portillo who coined the first kitchen-table metaphor for the Conservatives. "You know what it's like when a couple have fallen out of love," he told the Tory party conference in 1997, "when even the way one partner pours milk on the cornflakes drives the other mad?" That's how the voters saw the Tories — every reminder of their presence was an irritation.

It was also Mr Portillo who, last week, articulated one way by which the Tories could prove themselves worthy again — by learning to love the public services to which the British public had always been devoted. Mr Hague endorsed that view at the weekend, seeking to align his party with the nurses, teachers and policemen who provide the healthcare, education and crime protection that voters value.

The Conservatives, however, have a problem in becoming the party of public servants. The party of the smaller State will find it difficulty to outbid a centre-left Government in a financial auction for their affections. There is, however, one issue, central and urgent, on which the Tories could present themselves as the champions of the public sector. The Conservatives could defend public servants from the unjust, unproven and demoralising charge of "institutional racism" which has been so promiscuously flung at them in the past month. And yet they are silent.

*Michael Gove*

In the absence of any political opposition, the charge of institutional racism has been applied to the police, teachers and nurses. The Royal College of Nursing accepted the libel with scarcely a murmur. Not since Lucifer's revolt in Heaven, we are asked to believe, have there been so many fallen angels.

But it is one of the principles of basic justice that an uncorroborated confession is no proof of guilt. And where is the advocate the public sector needs to protest at this unproven charge? The Conservative Party mumbles apologies and hands back the brief.

William Hague, speaking at the weekend, did touch on the radical assult directed at society's protectors. "Our police force has come in for a lot of criticism in the last month," he noted. "But let's never forget," he added, "what a magnificent job these brave men and women do for our community". The Tory leader may have been anxious to reassure the police that they had a defender in him, but his defence was more a plea in mitigation than a direct rebuttal of the criticism they have endured.

The Tory leader did not tackle, and has not rejected, the specific accusations which have been directed at the force. The Macpherson inquiry succeeds in exposing incompetence but fails to prove that it was due to wilful prejudice. It prefers the infinitely malleable charge of "unwitting racism".

It seeks to damn without securing what any court would require before pronouncing guilt — clear evidence of motivation. How can Conservatives stay silent while the idea is advanced that reasoning individuals are guilty of crimes that they did not know they committed, institutions *as a whole* can be condemned for their collective, and unconscious, views, and society *as a whole* has to be changed radically to atone for these sins?

There is evidence of sensitivity to race influencing police operations. But it points in a direction quite contrary to Sir William's conclusions. The Home Office has confirmed that 64 per cent more in overall resources and 35 per cent more in officer days have been devoted to solving the murders of black victims as compared with white victims. In 1997-98 the overall clear-up rate for murders was 24.9 per cent. But if the victim was black, the clear-up rate was 41.4 per cent. The weapons are there to defend the public sector from unjustified assault, but the Tories fear to pick them up. Their reluctance is an opportunity missed to champion those with a legitimate grievance. But it reflects a deeper failure.

William Hague has, wisely, noted that the Tories can no longer be merely "the economics party". Where they were once fiscally numerate, they must learn to be culturally literate and speak the language of "values". But the Conservatives seem reluctant to recognise that the most potent cultural assault on Britain's liberal values comes from the advocates of "group rights" who wrap their radical purpose in the reassuring tapestry of "multiculturalism".

The Tory thinker John O'Sullivan, in a brilliant lecture to the Centre for Policy Studies, has pointed out that the cultural assault on institutions goes beyond the public sector troika of nurses, teachers and police to the traditional Tory trinity of individual, family and nation state. The grievances of groups, whether ethnically or gender-based, are held to transcend the rights of individuals, and the culture of a nation such as Britain's is judged to be so rooted in an oppressive history that it must be deconstructed.

Do the Tories still believe they are so resented that their intervention in defence of unfairly vilified public servants would be as irritating as the unloved spouse's pouring of milk on the cornflakes? Or will they have the courage to recognise that finding their voice in defence of these institutions would be a pouring of oil on troubled waters?

*michael.gove@the-times.co.uk*



"THEY ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE TO BE WATCHED AFTER 9pm."

# At home and so at risk

## Cruelty to children demands state intervention in the family — and fast

Prepare to be harrowed. The NSPCC launches its biggest ever campaign this evening — "Full Stop" — with television advertising in which Alan Shearer and the Spice Girls histrionically shield their eyes from horrid vignettes of mothers losing control, abusers looming, fathers screaming, toddlers crying for help. Don't think you'll get away from it: there will be posters, interviews and a fusillade of awful statistics — a quarter of all rape victims are children, 100 a year are killed in their own homes, new babies are five times more likely to be murdered than adults. On top of that, the charity says that although 35,000 children are on the child protection registers, they still believe that most cases of cruelty go unreported.

There will be resolutions: about new services, new partnerships, new support for stressed families. There will be celebrity endorsements from everyone from media psychiatrists to someone called Baroness Thatcher, who — unless I am thinking of another peeress of the same name — was not previously famed for her keenness to provide new services for disadvantaged families. The aim is "to enlist every individual and organisation in a mission to end cruelty to children". Not just to reduce it: to end it, full stop.

Well, of course, they won't. The strong tend to prey upon the weak, and adults are stronger than children. So are their older siblings; one of the more startling findings is that a small child is almost as likely to be killed by a brother or sister (4 per cent) as by a stranger (5 to 6 per cent). The one inescapable fact is that 95 per cent of child murders are family matters: a third of the killers are mothers, nearly half are their boyfriends or husbands. As for the victims, 40 per cent are not yet one year old, and another 20 per cent are under four. And this is just the ones who die.

Think of those who don't: terrorised, tortured, traumatised, neglected and with dreadful irony, often thereby made incapable of treating their own future children properly.

But oh, what a task! As it happens, I think the NSPCC is right to take its grand sweeping attitude, but it must know that not all the implications will be popular. It is easy to state aims and to raise funds for helplines, "Birth Packs" and the rest; the difficult bit is to reach right inside the darkness of the most dangerous families and pluck the children to safety. The even more difficult bit is to persuade the rest of us that in doing so, you are not endangering the civil liberties and family privacy of the majority.

For we are in the middle of a quiet but genuine backlash against public intervention in the family unit. The backlash was caused by the discredited witch-hunts by social workers in the 1980s, and is aggravated by the prurient stress on sexual — rather than purely violent — abuse, and by scandals in the care system. The result is a general mood of cynicism about anyone "interfering" in the family. Media analysts report a sharp decline in the coverage of child deaths during this decade, and the charity concludes that the media is only interested in blaming professionals or strangers, not families. Yet the figures show that a child is 20 times more likely to be killed at home than on the street; and an 18-year study suggests that many children recorded as perishing from "unknown causes" have in fact been killed by their parents.

*Libby Purves*

But the media know their public. The reason they dwell on wicked strangers and paedophile rings is that we prefer monsters to muddles. It is easier to read about Robert Oliver or Marc Dutroux than to contemplate the reality of a dim, unthinking woman so desperate for love that she lets a drunken bully kick her baby about; or a couple so locked in perverse *folie à deux* that a habit grows up between them of tormenting a child whose defiance or awkwardness baffles them; or a whole family out of control, mazed by poverty, boredom, futility and drugs into a communal state of denial about the small child starving in the filthy back room.

These things happen. The difference is that ten years ago they routinely led to an outcry against social workers for not taking the child away from its parents sooner. Nowadays it is more popular to side with parents whose children are "snatched" by authority.

The NSPCC asks for a government "Commissioner for Children", for rigour in reviewing child deaths, for public and media help and for better communication — at the moment it is almost ludicrously possible to slip, as the West children did, into the information gap between police, social services and schools.

It pledges to "encourage" government to devote resources to children and families. But it falls short of openly challenging the big sacred cow: the view that natural families are best. It does not say — how could it? — the unsayable truth that some are no place for a child at all.

I am not a pessimist: on the whole, families of all social groups amaze me with their kindness, stoicism and goodwill towards the weaker members, young and old. I would have no hesitation at all in saying that most could do with less, not more, state interference. But there are hard exceptions, needing hard-nosed and decisive action.

Their number may be growing: ours is an ever more disjointed society, haunted by material ambition and plagued by narcotics and other quick-fix pleasures. Individuals are culturally encouraged to live for self-fulfilment at all costs.

This is dangerous for children, whose safety and happiness depend on adults' willingness to stay sober, keep on decent terms with the neighbours and the community, and to sacrifice some of their own fun.

Self-indulgence, weakness and stupidity easily turn into violence (how many children have been struck down simply because the clear, troubled innocence in their eyes infuriates an adult who hates the constant reminder that he or she is in the wrong?). At the moment, the received wisdom of social work is that such adults — especially if they are female — must be understood, "supported" and "educated" and given another chance. This happens to fit in rather well with the shortage of decent public care and the ponderousness of the adoption system. But where a child's safety is concerned, support and education are only the answer if they work very quickly indeed. If not, Pollyanna optimism is out of place: the child's interests are not necessarily those of the muddled, useless, dangerous parent, and the child's come first.

One of the most chilling testimonies at the time of the Bramley uproar was from a seasoned fosterer, John Waite of the BBC, who wrote about the difficulty of handing a child back to grim natural parents when ordered to. He told of a small boy who had tried to hide under the bathwater when someone unthinkingly said "Daddy's coming"; he went back to Daddy.

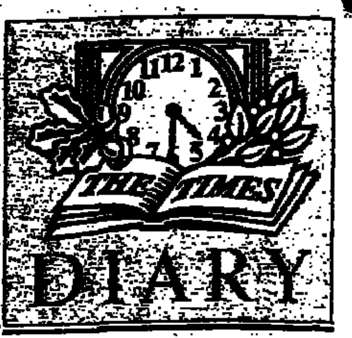
Another arrived pale and silent, blossomed in his weeks with them, and wept when he was returned into a terrible room where dim, lethargic parents barely acknowledged his arrival over the racket of the television. Waite said stoically that fosterers have to get used to it, because that is the deal; perhaps we should think more carefully about the deal and banish institutional sentimentality about the blood tie.

I finished writing a novel recently which has a druggy mother who only likes babies and dislikes her 11-year-old. In one scene she dismissively says "that kid never brought me no luck". I thought I was caricaturing this minor character, and worriedly showed the passages to three separate child protection workers. They all assured me that I have, on the contrary, been very soft. One observed that her problem with younger staff is that faced with an expressive, self-pitying adult, they are swept away in empathy and forget that the child has no voice. "The mother says she loves the baby, and has had a hard time in her life, and they stop seeing the scars on the child."

But if we are to be tougher about removing children from dangerous parents, other things must change.

Care should be far, far better, fostering more honoured and adoption much faster (at the moment it takes double the average time in America, for an identical failure rate). And children, who need protection most, must be put firmly at the centre of policy and not regarded as an expensive by-product. Thus far, at least, the NSPCC has got it absolutely right.

*comment@the-times.co.uk*



# Gong gang

THE QUEEN is set to call on Dame Judi Dench to jazz up the Order of Merit. If selected, the theatrical dame will be the first actress to be so honoured.

The deaths of Sir Isaiah Berlin, Ted Hughes, Lord Denning and Lord Menuhin have devastated the 24-strong group (tasteless sorts dub it the Order of Mortus because of the seniority of appointees). Surviving members, such as Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and Baroness Thatcher, are rather dry (in their manner, not in their consumption).

There is a will in royal circles to revive the purpose of the Order, founded by Edward VII in 1902 to honour those "as may have rendered meritorious service towards the advancement of the arts, learning, literature and science". Dame Judi (below right) has stirred royals with Oscar-nominated displays such as Queens Victoria (in *Mrs Brown*) and Elizabeth (*Shakespeare in Love*). She will join only a handful of women in the Order after Florence Nightingale (left). Unusually in this Blairite era, the choice is in the gift of Her Majesty.

One OM, Max Perutz, a scientific sort, is uneasy: "I have known some very great actresses who deserve it. I do not know Dame Judi at all. I have no idea who she is."

But Dame Cicely Saunders is a fan and eagerly awaits the chance to meet the actress at the regular



OM knees-up at Buckingham Palace: "We have lunch with the Queen and the Duke, who both seem very relaxed. It is a marvellous mixed bag. I have enormous confidence in the Queen's choice."

*JACK STRAW is pursuing his family policy with gusto. The Home Secretary has appointed trustees of the new National Family and Parenting Institute, including Ed Straw, forgetting to mention that he is his brother.*

■ SPEND a weekend spying with Rupert Allason. The former MP and conspiracist will star in jolly little romps run by a Midlands hotel: for £198, would-be John le Carrés can listen to an after-dinner speech by Allason on "the secret world — the MI5, MI6, that sort of thing" to tee up a tour of Bletchley Park, RAF bases used by wartime secret agents, and Kim Philby's haunts in St Albans. "Spy buffs will love it," suggests Allason, limbering up in the Caribbean.

*HINTS that Clive Anderson (below) may return to the Bar. The TV host kept his name on the door at 4 King's Bench Walk and has been dropping by for drinks. He has told friends that he misses the law and felt happiest before being struck by the curse of celebrity.*





■ THE Savoy is to take a more relaxed view of suitless sorts. I hear that this follows an awkward scene when Bill Gates was asked to slip a tie over his polo-necked cranium. One suggestion is that staff will now be allowed to employ their considerable powers of discretion.

Regulars worry. Nicholas Soames thunders: "It is deplorable. The point about it is that it doesn't allow jeans wearers who look as if they have stepped out of a gay bar."

*SINCE the election, ministers have issued 18,000 press releases. It was Jo Grimond who noticed the inverse relationship between the printing of such notices and the taking of political action.*

■ APPEALING to new Labour's natural constituency, Philip Gould addressed public school girls recently. "You have managed to pay school fees, so surely you can pay university fees, too?" argued Gould. This went down so well with the hockey sticks that poor Philip was lucky to escape unscathed.

JASPER GERARD

# 'In the Bulger case the justice system delivered a verdict which brought some peace to our troubled hearts, only to be subjected to mad Euro litigation'

**Roger Scruton**

British justice, and the English law in which it is based, have enjoyed the confidence not only of the British people but of the entire civilised world. The law remains our most important invisible export. The jury system, the common law conception of duty, the doctrine of precedent, the system of appeals, the rigid separation of solicitor and barrister, the brilliant device of equity — all these bestow on the English law an ability to do justice in situations that had never been envisaged by Parliament.

But all that is changing. First, our native sense of justice, derived from a law that places duty before right and precedent before innovation, is being overridden by the rights-based law of the European courts: a law invented by ideologues and activists, with no roots in the customs and feelings of the people. We see an illustration of this in the James Bulger case, in which our justice system delivered a verdict that brought some peace to our troubled hearts, only to be subjected to mad litigation directed through the European Court of Human Rights, whose only interest is in the "rights" of those who committed this terrible crime.

But the decay of our legal system comes not only from outside forces. There is an inward loss of respect for the law — a sacrifice of the law to the interests of the lawyers. Barristers are no longer representatives, defending their clients before an impartial judge, but legal activists, testing the law for the money that can be squeezed from it. Solicitors are no longer there to shield us from legal misfortune but to throw us into the fray, often charging on the basis of "no win, no fee" in the hope of a share of profits. The Government's Access to Justice Bill, currently going through Parliament, can only exacerbate this trend. Gradually our courts are adopting the American practice of awarding damages not on the grounds of fault, but on the grounds of ability to pay. They are becoming machines for the redistribution of income, taking money from the innocent — and in particular from the innocent taxpayer — in order to reward the "victim", regardless of fault.

A doctor recently won nearly £500,000 damages from her health authority on the ground that she was no longer able to work, having accidentally jabbed her finger on a discarded hypodermic needle and having, in consequence, developed "needlestick phobia" — an ailment not previously recognised by the law but *immensely* useful to such a litigant.

Now a doctor who can so easily develop a phobia about needles is clearly pursuing the wrong career. And the thought that she must be compensated in full for a weakness that is no different in kind from the weaknesses that so many of us either suffer in silence or strive to overcome reflects a wholly immoral view of personal liability.

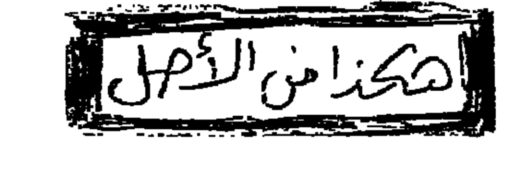
The common law has depended upon tacit assumptions. One is that damages are granted in order to rectify a perceived legal wrong. Another is that people are moral beings, who take responsibility for their faults and deal with each other openly and fairly until things break down. Those assumptions can no longer be made. People are learning how to present themselves as "victims" of wealthy or well-insured enterprises, and relying on the rhetoric of barristers and the sympathies of judges to earn sums that they are rarely likely to earn by honest labour.

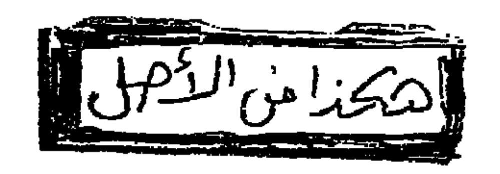
They are also acquiring a habit of "moral evasion", as David Selbourne has aptly called it — refusing to admit their faults, or to take responsibility for their lives, and shifting the burden of their existence on to others who, or so they imagine, can afford to shoulder it.

They are also taking their cue from the European courts, and rephrasing moral questions in terms of rights while refusing to recognise the existence of duties. Everything undesirable, and every call to behave better, is experienced as a violation of "rights". And since duties are not mine but other people's, nobody has a "right" to complain about my offensive actions. The damage done by this emerging rights-based culture affects serious matters such as the balance of justice in the Bulger case, but also seeps into everyday disputes. As one defendant expressed it in a recent noise pollution case: "I like music and I like it loud so I can hear it. I feel I have been victimised."

The effect of the new style of litigation is that courts impose unjust penalties on innocent parties, while rewarding naked self-interest and calculating litigiousness. The common law is "de-moralised", just like the people whom it serves. It then becomes a source of conflicts rather than a means for resolving them.

*comment@the-times.co.uk*










# SINS OF COMMISSION

## Santer and his colleagues should quit in disgrace

Fraud, mismanagement, arrogance and contempt for public opinion: those have become the hallmarks of the European Commission. To the embarrassment of those who see the EU's top bureacrats as the basis for an expanding European government, billions of pounds can now be shown to have been wasted through incompetence and dishonesty. According to the yearly auditors' report the Commission's culture of cronyism has brought to the Commission some of the worst Spanish practices — and not only from Spain — that have sapped the motivation of thousands of civil servants in Brussels and eroded public confidence in European Union institutions.

Yesterday's report on the scandal has proved as damning and forthright as the Commission's most trenchant critics forecast. It said it was difficult to find anyone who had "even the slightest sense of responsibility". It confirmed, in chilling detail, the nepotism and the backhanders, the political patronage and tolerance of dubious practices that have been a feature of the Commission since its establishment in the 1950s. This Commission stands accused of being the most corrupt to hold office. Jacques Santer's belated attempt to distance himself from this culture of corruption has been as self-serving as it has been ineffective. It was only the European Parliament's threat to dismiss the Commission that brought any acknowledgement that anything was wrong.

The President of the Commission and all those named in the report should, if they had any honour, immediately resign. But the chances of their taking this minimum step are slight. Edith Cresson, the Commissioner most deeply implicated, has been by turn arrogant, defiant and conspiratorial. Refusing to acknowledge that hiring her dentist as a special adviser or putting four other unqualified cronies on her payroll was wrong or corrupt, she sees all the charges either as part of a German plot or as a new manifestation of the male chauvinism which she blamed for her 1992 dismissal as Prime Minister of France. Her devastating remark that she was guilty of no behaviour that was not standard in the French administrative culture may be accurate, but it has cost her the support of the French Government which may now decide her cause is indefensible.

Her fellow Commissioners are under enormous pressure to clean up before they leave office at the end of the year. But singling out Mme Cresson will be difficult. Manuel Marín, one of the Spanish Commissioners, has been named, as have Monika Wulf-Mathies of Germany and João de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese Commissioner who found posts for his wife and brother-in-law. And fingers can still be pointed at several others who have not been named. M. Santer stands over it all.

If there are no resignations, sackings will not be easy. Invoking Article 160 of the Treaty of Rome, never before used, the President could apply to the European Court of Justice to have Mme Cresson removed on the ground of failing to perform her duty. If he were to choose not do so, the Council of Ministers, which can also take such a step, must act. Either way, it will be time-consuming and messy, and Mme Cresson will try to draw out proceedings. Some sections of the French Government, rightly ashamed of their nominee's record, may try to spin things out until November, when the issue will become moot. That should not be allowed to happen. An example must be made, and not only of the hapless Mme Cresson. The EU cannot open its eastern doors to a union of cronies. It must put on the agenda of the next inter-governmental conference machinery to deal swiftly with corruption and incompetence. And the besmirched Santer Commission should be remembered as a warning to those who would replace them.

# CHILDREN IN COURT

## Humane arguments and flawed conclusions in the Bulger case

However many profoundly disturbing questions were raised by the sadistic murder of James Bulger, the toddler hacked to death by two ten-year-old boys in 1993, it has not hitherto seemed in doubt that Robert Thompson and Jon Venables received a scrupulously fair and humane trial, or that they were correctly found guilty of what the trial judge termed an "act of unparalleled evil". That has now been questioned by the European Commission of Human Rights.

The commission's reasoning appears somewhat tortuous. Young as the offenders were, it accepted that because each child "knew what he was doing was wrong", the test of criminal responsibility had been "correctly applied". Yet, deciding that their trial was not fair, it has sent the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

The nub of its case is that children of that age should never be subjected to "public trial in an adult court with attendant publicity". It did not dispute that the boys understood the purpose of the proceedings and knew what was at stake, or that they were competently represented. It accepted that the court attended to their needs, shortening hearings and arranging for the presence of their social workers; and that their lawyers made no complaints at the time. But it found that open trial in an adult court is of its nature so "severely intimidating" to a child that it is "deprived of the opportunity to participate effectively" and thus of a fair trial. The inference is that shielding young defendants from distress takes precedence over the deeply held view that justice should be seen to be done, and that in the very rare cases of juvenile murderers that requires a public trial.

This was not a unanimous view. To a dissenting minority, it was "impossible and unrealistic" to demand that a fair hearing requires the accused to feel at ease, or fully in command of the complexities of a trial. If that were so, they argued, neither children, nor illiterates, nor those with mental problems or "low intelligence", nor even those unfamiliar with the law, could ever be tried. Even in trials held in camera, in youth courts, the unavoidable need for lawyers and witnesses would make a child feel "out of place and in an oppressive and embarrassing environment".

Common sense suggests that this must be so, and the court should take these arguments seriously. But it is also, in practice, a reasonable supposition that the Bulger trial format would not now be repeated in this country. Liberal legal opinion is moving towards something closer to the continental system of an examining magistrate for these fortunately rare cases. More significant for British law, should the court rule against the Government, are the commission's conclusions that it also breached the European Convention for the Home Secretary to alter a minimum sentence set by a judge, that the boys' rights to a review of the lawfulness of their imprisonment have been violated, and that children should never receive more than a "short tariff".

It is a sound principle that sentencing is for judges, not politicians. The evolution of English law makes rare exceptions to this rule for particularly dreadful crimes. That was part of the social compact when capital punishment was abolished. In the Bulger case, the House of Lords ruled two years ago that, in raising the tariff, Michael Howard had acted unlawfully because he had been influenced by non-judicial considerations, notably a widespread public demand for stiffer sentences than had been set by the courts. Although that showed judicial review at work, the commission wants politics removed entirely from the judicial arena. But justice can never be absolutely removed from the domain of policy. If these rulings leave a sour taste with the British public, as they will, it will be because in the commission's concern for the rights of two child killers, it seems almost to overlook the particular horror of the crime, and their incontrovertible guilt. Hard cases make bad law; and bad law could result if the court does not set some, at least, of these arguments aside.

# STREET FIGHTING MAN

## An MP's plan to stop traffic jams deserves government support

Today thousands of motorists will trundle past holes in the road, dug up for a different reason only a few weeks ago, with no workmen anywhere in sight. Their frustration might be tempered by news that Christopher Fraser, the Conservative MP for Mid Dorset and North Poole, is sponsoring a Bill under which companies would be fined if they failed to complete road maintenance within a specified time. Money raised would be given to local authorities to spend on road maintenance. This policy decongestant, lumbering down the legislative slow lane, offers much-needed relief for drivers.

The previous Government's attempts to unclog roads disappeared on Whitehall's hard shoulder. Under the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991, the Secretary of State can require a company to pay a charge to a local authority if its work exceeds an agreed timetable. This Government, like the last, appears to harbour a central reservation about using this power, no doubt afraid of public utilities' response.

Hopes are pinned on the Streets Works Register, to be launched on the Internet next month. By requiring utility companies to register their requests to dig up a road, their work might be co-ordinated. Multiple incisions into main traffic arteries, such as London's Bishopsgate being dug up 333 times in three years, should be avoided.

Whether this system will be able to cope with the volume of roadworks in inner cities remains to be seen. In the London Borough of Camden alone, 20,000 holes a year are dug. Even if the public utilities do communicate on the electronic superhighway, there will still be no penalty for companies that do not complete their work promptly or thoroughly. The Government should recognise the political mileage in backing Mr Fraser's Bill. The Budget dug deep into motorists' pockets, which are far shallower than those of the public utilities. By giving the green light to Mr Fraser's scheme, the Government would have its jam today, and motorists would thank ministers for having no jam tomorrow.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## So who really won in Budget lottery?

*From Mr Adrian Cosker*

Sir, Our high indirect taxes are not damaging just to the various industries on which they most immediately impinge (leading article and letters, March 15). They reduce our overall competitiveness by raising costs generally and, as the Bank of England's targeted inflation measure counts changes in them (absurdly) as inflationary price rises, they have the effect of keeping interest rates, and thus the pound, higher than they would otherwise be, to the further detriment of wealth creation within our economy.

It has long been accepted that high rates of income tax both reduce incentives and are counter-productive in that they lead to a reduction in total revenues raised. It is time to recognise that excessively high indirect taxes can be just as harmful.

Yours etc,
ADRIAN COSKER
(Head of Economics),
The Knights Templar School,
Park Street, Baldock,
Hertfordshire SG7 6DZ.
March 15.

*From Mr Peter Johnson*

Sir, With all due respect to Mr David de Gale (letter, March 12), taxes on tobacco, alcohol and petrol are anything but "stealth" taxes.

The true stealth taxes are those which have reduced the yield on pension funds and invested savings, at a time when we are being urged to do more to provide for our own old age, and the windfall tax on utilities which, although popular, removed money which would otherwise have had to be used to reward shareholders (most of us these days in one form or another), pay off debt, reduce prices, or for investment in expanded or upgraded facilities.

Yours sincerely,
PETER JOHNSON,
20 Fairlands, East Preston,
West Sussex BN16 1LH.
March 12.

*From Mr Paul McCallum*

Sir, By increasing the winter fuel allowance for pensioners, the Chancellor may well be responsible for saving someone's life this coming winter. This, coupled with increasing pensioners' Minimum Income Guarantee in line with earnings instead of prices, highlights that the Government believes in improving the standard of living for pensioners after many years of Conservative neglect.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL McCALLUM,
32 High Street,
Ruddington, Nottingham NG11 6EA.
*paul.mccallum@boots.co.uk*
March 12.

*From Mr Nigel V. Hewitt*

Sir, Is it right to say that this particular Budget did away with any recognition of marriage? I thought that it still provided less for two pensioners that are married than for two that are not.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL V. HEWITT,
36 Princes Terrace, Kemptown,
Brighton, East Sussex BN2 5JS.
*nigelh@combro.co.uk*
March 13.

*From Dr Susan E. Kay*

Sir, We are that most undeserving category of humanity: a married couple with a mortgage, both self-employed, living in a remote enough rural spot to need a diesel Land Rover to guarantee year-round mobility, no dependent children (well actually, with a daughter on a six-year course at university, but that doesn't count).

The Budget has deprived us of a large slice of our income. Fair enough. What we resent is the impression given to the electorate that their gain came courtesy of one Gordon Brown — a bachelor, living in the capital city, with free housing and transport, no children at university and employee status. We would like just a little acknowledgement of the contribution from the losers in this "everyone's a winner" Budget.

Thank heaven for the Scottish elections. At least drowning our sorrows in Scotch won't cost more.

Yours faithfully,
SUSAN E. KAY,
Dissington Old Farm,
Dissington,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE18 0BW.
March 11.

## Country skill

*From Mr J. A. Cunningham*

Sir, What a joy today it was driving on the northbound carriageway of the M1 between junctions 8 and 9 to see several hundred yards of new and perfectly executed "stake and bound" fence. I do not know if this superb example of hedge-laying was produced by the owner of the adjacent farm or by the highway authority.

The Countryside Agency and similar bodies really must encourage the extended use of this old English rural craft on the roadsides. Funds should be provided to train apprentice hedge-cutters.

Yours etc,
J. A. CUNNINGHAM,
Dorcas Farm, Stoke Hammond,
Milton Keynes MK17 0EA.
March 10.

## Pilate's reputation and early Christian 'spin-doctors'

*From Mr James Dowling*

Sir, In reference to Mr P. M. Burrows's assertion that Pilate was fair-minded to Jesus (letter, March 12; see also letters, March 10 and 13), I can only agree.

The Jewish historian Josephus gives us a picture of Pilate as a harsh and brutal man, yet crucifixion was the Roman punishment for insurrection, and a certain reading of the Gospels — bearing in mind the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the cleansing of the temple, the fact that the Gospels show Jesus as the centre of a mass movement with (Luke tells us) Zealots numbering among his disciples — would seem to suggest that that is exactly what Jesus, wittingly or otherwise, was involved in. Certainly it is possible to reconstruct a picture of Galilee which would suggest that Jesus's message was very divisive indeed.

I would suggest that it is likely that, within his remit, Pilate — the Roman official charged with keeping order in a province brimming with trouble — was more than fair-minded in executing a serious challenge to the peace of the province. Certainly the Roman procurators' treatment of other such figures (and Herod Antipas's stance towards John the Baptist) was no different.

In addition, the account of Jesus's trial given in the Gospels has to be suspect, given the apologetic stance the early Church was forced to take with respect to the Roman authorities.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES DOWLING,
Sidney Sussex College,
Cambridge CB2 3HU.
*jod20@hermes.cam.ac.uk*
March 13.

*From Professor Hyam Maccoby*

Sir, Geoffrey Kelly writes (March 13), "The mob which pressed Pilate to crucify Jesus must have been huge, determined and menacing to have intimidated him, as recorded in the Gospels." He does not consider the alternative (favoured by many scholars) that the incident was invented by the Gospel writers to shift the blame for the crucifixion from the Romans to the Jews.

Historically, the incident is most improbable. Pilate had the might of the Roman Empire behind him and had no reason to fear a mob. Evidence from other sources shows him to have been ferociously decisive in dealing with any threat to Roman power. He needed no reminding that someone who claimed to be King of the Jews constituted such a threat.

The authors of the Gospels were concerned to dissociate their movement from Jewish rebelliousness, in the aftermath of the great Jewish rebellion against Rome (AD66-70). This accounts for the pronounced pro-Roman and anti-Jewish bias of these writings.

Yours faithfully,
HYAM MACCOBY
(Visiting Professor),
Centre for Jewish Studies,
University of Leeds,
Leeds LS2 9JT.
March 14.

*From Mr Jonathan Went*

Sir, Based upon the silence of Paul regarding Jesus, Mary and Pilate, and the unproven assumption that he wrote before the Gospels, David Lewis argues (letter, March 13) that the "Christian faith is founded in spiritual myth, not historical fact".

Some years ago you ran an article, "Eyewitness to Christ", and leading article (December 24, 1994) based on the work of Carsten Thiede, whose manuscript investigations of Matthew's Gospel led him to believe that it was earlier than most modern scholars thought.

Matthew is so full of Hebrew idiom that it makes little sense if dated after the Greek influx into the Church. The Reverend John Wenham (*Redating Matthew, Mark and Luke*, 1991) and Bishop John Robinson (*Redating the New Testament*, 1976) argued for dating Matthew around AD40, less than ten years after Jesus's death, and nearly ten years before Paul wrote. Paul wrote for the Church and did not repeat what the Gospel writers had already written.

But we need not take the word of modern academics alone, for the early Church in some 20 sources from the early 2nd century onwards attributes the first Gospel to Matthew, written around AD42, between eight and 15 years after Christ's ascension, and thus before Paul.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN WENT,
4 Crown Point Drive, Private Road,
Bixley, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 8RR.
*jonathanwent@teaching.telme.com*
March 13.

*From Mr Peter Beale*

Sir, David Lewis claims that "the earliest pre-Gospel Christian writings from St Paul and others . . . give no geographical or historical context to Jesus's life" and "never suggest that the earthly Jesus wrought miracles or gave any moral teachings".

He ought to turn to I Corinthians xv, in which Paul emphasises the historical importance of the greatest miracle of all, the resurrection of Christ. Or, to I Corinthians xi and Paul's account of the institution of the Last Supper, which gives the lie to what Mr Lewis calls "The fact that Paul and the other early Christians betray no knowledge of Jesus's Gospel adventures".

PETER BEALE,
47 High St, Bulford,
Salisbury SP4 9DS.
March 14.

*From Mrs K. M. Jarvis*

Sir, I question whether it is ethical to rewrite history in order to make it more acceptable to our generation. Jean Goldman suggests (letter, March 10) that Matthew xxvii, 25 — "Then answered all the people and said, His blood be on us and on our children" — should be excised from the New Testament because it might be "offensive to Jews".

In Acts, Peter addresses the people of Jerusalem, repeating his theme: "That same Jesus whom ye have crucified . . ." until they cried out "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts ii, 36 and 37).

Not, I submit, pretend that it never happened.

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN JARVIS,
28 Penn Grove Road,
Hereford HR1 1BH.
March 10.

## Library dispute

*From the Chief Executive of The British Library*

Sir, Contrary to your reports (later editions, March 8 and March 9), working conditions in the British Library's new book stores at St Pancras have not been the central issue in the dispute between the Library and some of its staff who are members of the Public and Commercial Services Union.

For staff to compare the new book stores with coalmines is simply ludicrous. They are bright, spacious and airy. You mention "extremes of temperature", but the point about the stores is that the temperature does not fluctuate, in order that the Library's collections may be preserved in the best possible environment. The stores are a massive improvement on the conditions to which staff and books were subjected in our former home in Bloomsbury and we had no difficulty in finding volunteers to work in them.

The issues which led to the industrial action are the introduction of a new grading structure and more flexible working arrangements, which are needed to make proper use of the new opportunities at St Pancras. The dispute has arisen from opposition by less than 5 per cent of the library's staff.

I deeply regret that we have been forced to close the reading rooms and the inconvenience this will cause to our readers. We were unable to give adequate warning because the union breached the undertaking it had given to provide seven days' notice before commencing any industrial action.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LANG,
Chief Executive,
The British Library,
96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB.
March 9.

## Verdict on Bahrain

*From Mr Alan Brooke*

Sir, In his eulogy on the Emir of Bahrain (letter, March 12) the former British Ambassador, Sir Roger Tomkys, omits some important qualities of this "warm and sincere friend" of Britain.

The US State Department describes Bahrain as "a hereditary emirate with few democratic institutions and no political parties" (*Bahrain Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998*).

It is a country where "the denial of the right of citizens to change their government; extrajudicial killings; torture; arbitrary arrest; incommunicado and prolonged detention; involuntary exile; infringement on citizens' privacy rights . . . [and] limitations on or the denial of the right to a fair public trial" have led to the arrest and torture of hundreds of people.

Yours sincerely,
A. BROOKE,
59 Magdale, Honley,
Huddersfield HD7 2LX.
March 12.

## Electronic voting

*From Mr Brian Shaw*

Sir, I note with concern that London may be subject to the first experiment with electronic voting (report, March 12). In their efforts to simplify (and guide?) our choice, I hope the software writers will include the option for voters to register an abstention.

At present, we have to resort to the spoilt-paper approach. This is the only way that we can register the fact that we care deeply about the election (and do not wish to be classified as dead or indifferent by staying at home) but do not like any of the choices offered.

The closed-list system for European elections, for example, is an affront to democracy. I will be spoiling my paper on principle. The Lords lost their nerve in defending our democratic rights. It is now up to us.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN SHAW,
19 Oak Grove, Poynton,
Cheshire SK12 1AD.
March 12.

## European jingoism

*From Mr Jack Knight*

Sir, Glenys Kinnock's letter on the US-EU trade dispute (March 10) is a fine example of European jingoism. The idea of the EU being the protector of small countries flies in the face of the facts.

From Haiti to Herzegovina, the US has proved itself to be the only guarantor of small countries' rights, while the EU, reliable only in its feebleness and indecision, has often passively stood by or contributed to the general mess.

Yours faithfully,
JACK KNIGHT,
43 Bathurst Mews, W2 2SB.
March 10.

**Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk***

## Buses to the back

*From Mr B. J. Goodchild*

Sir, Mrs Diana Robinson (letter, March 8) sees the unfavourable location proposed for the Millennium Dome bus stops compared with the car drop-off point as indicative of the low regard in which public transport is still held in Britain.

She is right. In how many towns is the bus station (if any) as close to the shopping centre as is the multistorey car park? How many stores or leisure attractions providing free parking offer their customers discounts on bus tickets as well?

For that matter, where is the prize draw or competition which promises its winner, say, five years' free bus or train travel instead of a new car?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY GOODCHILD,
36 Hinton Road,
Wallington, Surrey SM6 9AU.
March 9.

## NSPCC advertising

*From the General Secretary of GMB and others*

Sir, On Tuesday evening many people will be shocked and moved to see the new television advertisements from the NSPCC on ITV. We were shocked and moved, too, when we first saw them. But we cannot hide from the horrific reality of child abuse.

Every week at least one child is killed in the UK through abuse or neglect; 35,000 children are officially considered to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm; and there are at least 110,000 adults living in this country who have been convicted of sex offences against children.

These statistics are shocking enough, a national scandal, but the reality is much worse. Most cases of cruelty to children go unreported.

Like the NSPCC, we believe it is time for people — politicians, trade unionists, business people and all sections of society — to take action to end child cruelty. We must face up to our responsibility to children and make their care and protection everybody's business. Cruelty to children is unacceptable. It must stop.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN EDMONDS,
General Secretary, GMB.
ANDREW ROWE,
Vice-chair, All Party Parliamentary Children's Group.
DAVID SVENDSEN,
Chairman, Microsoft UK Ltd,
c/o National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children,
42 Curtain Road, EC2A 3NH.
March 14.

## Awash with wine

*From Mr F. C. Peacock*

Sir, Is it an absolute journalistic requirement that food, however delectable, must be "washed down with" wine, however noble (leading article, "Battle of the dinner plate", March 12)?

Even specialist "foodie" writers almost invariably use this barbaric imagery.

Yours faithfully,
F. C. PEACOCK,
Kensa, Church Street,
Newlyn, Penzance,
Cornwall TR18 5JY.
March 12.

## Ghost ships?

*From Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Earlam*

Sir, I am worried. I note from your Court Page announcements (March 12) that the Chairman of British Invisibles attended dinner with the Navy Board on March 11. Does this predict another, even more stringent, defence review?

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
DAVID EARLAM,
Sylvan House,
Worthgate Place,
Canterbury, Kent CT1 2QX.
March 14.



# COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 15: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning departed RAF Northolt for Nice Airport, France and later arrived in Monaco.

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis is in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh today attended a Lunch with His Serene Highess The Sovereign Prince of Monaco at the Palace of Monaco.

His Royal Highness, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this evening attended a Reception at The Casino and a Dinner at the Hotel de Paris, Monaco.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 15: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Falkland Islands Community School.

His Royal Highness later visited the Falklands Islands' Agricultural Centre and then toured the Fisheries Protection Vessel *Dorada* before attending a luncheon at the Stanley Seaman's Centre.

This afternoon His Royal Highness visited Mount Longdon, where he laid wreaths at the 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment Memorial.

The Prince of Wales afterwards visited Fitzroy Cove where he laid wreaths at the memorials to the Welsh Guards and RFAs. *Sir Tristram* and *Sir Galahad*.

His Royal Highness later visited HMS *Dumbarton Castle*. Subsequently His Royal Highness visited RAF Mount Pleasant where he toured the resident military units and met personnel and their families.

The Prince of Wales this evening departed by air for the United Kingdom.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 15: The Duke of York, Patron, The London Contemporary Dance Trust, attended a dinner at The Place, London WC1.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 15: The Princess Royal today carried out the following engagements in Auckland, New Zealand.

Her Royal Highness this morning attended a St John Ambulance Cadets Parade and display, Aotea Square, Auckland.

The Princess Royal later visited Homai Visual Education Centre, Manurewa.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon attended a tribute to Massey High School, Massey on behalf of Save the Children Fund New Zealand.

The Princess Royal, President, RedR — Engineers for Disaster Relief, later met with RedR representatives at the Institute of Professional Engineers.

Her Royal Highness subsequently visited America's Cup Village, and met Team New Zealand.

The Princess Royal this evening attended the British-New Zealand Trades Council and Link Foundation Reception at the Northern Club, 19 Princes Street, Auckland.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 15: The Duke of Kent, Grand Master, The Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, this morning attended an Officers' Meeting at Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire.

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, University of Surrey, this evening attended the Business Advisory Group dinner at Brook's Club, St James Street, London.

## Royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

Prince Edward, patron, London Mozart Players, will attend a concert and dinner at St James's Palace at 7.00 to mark the orchestra's 50th anniversary.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit the Royal Mint, Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan at 11.00; and, as Grand Prior, Order of St John, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance Wales, will visit Tredegar House, Gwent, at 12.45. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will visit Clytha Primary School, Gwent, at 1.30; and a celebration service for the installation of the new Chancellor, Woolos Cathedral, Gwent, at 2.40.

## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pieter Hooft, poet, Amsterdam, 1581; Caroline Herschel, astronomer, Hanover, Germany, 1750; James Madison, 4th American President 1809-17, Port Conway, Virginia, 1751; George Ohm, physicist, Erlanger, Germany, 1787.

DEATHS: Alexander III, King of Scotland 1249-86, Burntisland, Fyfe, 1286; Giovanni Pergolesi, composer, Pozzuoli, Italy, 1736; Jean Baptiste Rousseau, poet, Brussels, 1741; Robert Surtees, novelist, Brighton, 1864; Aubrey Beardsley, illustrator, Menton, 1898; John James Macleod, physiologist, pioneer of insulin, Nobel laureate 1923, Aberdeen, 1935; Sir Austen Chamberlain, Foreign Secretary 1924-29, Nobel peace laureate, 1925, London, 1937; Selma Lagerlof, novelist, Nobel laureate 1909, Marbacka, Sweden, 1940; William Henry Beveridge, Baron Beveridge, pioneer of social security, Oxford, 1963.

The American Military Academy established at West Point, 1802.

The first liquid-propelled rocket was launched by Dr Robert Goddard, an American physicist, 1926.

Hitler renounced Treaty of Versailles and introduced conscription, 1935.

The Queen opened the new London Bridge, 1973.



Michael Bailey and John Glithero on their "archaeological exploration" of the workings of Stephenson's *Rocket*

# Stephenson's Rocket 'excavated'

BY PAUL WILKINSON
NORTH WEST CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL archaeologists are conducting a three-month "dig" on one of the earliest steam locomotives. George Stephenson's *Rocket*, 170 years old this year, is being dismantled and rebuilt by Michael Bailey and John Glithero, experts in railway engineering, to see how the technology of the period evolved.

"Things were developing then as fast as computer technology does today when things have barely arrived in the shops and they are already old hat," Mr Bailey said. "The *Rocket* was already obsolete by the time it went into service in September 1830 on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway.

"It had been built just 11 months earlier for the Rainhill trials to see which locomotive should operate the line but design had already moved on by the time it came into use. Locomotives being built by then were already far superior in power and efficiency. But the line's owners had spent £500 on the locomotive and they wanted to get the benefit of their investment, so it went through a series of refits to keep it up to scratch. It will be those things that we will be looking at, to see how the technology evolved.

"Sadly for the *Rocket* it did not last long. In early 1837 it was sold off to the Earl of Carlisle to work in his collieries in Cumberland and it was retired into near-oblivion in 1840."

*Rocket* is famous as being involved in the first fatal railway accident when, on the opening day of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, it ran over and killed William Huskisson, MP, a promoter of the line and a former President of the Board of Trade.

It is less well known for also being involved five weeks later in the first recorded death of a trainspotter: Henry Hunter, a Manchester publican who had become fascinated with steam power. He had hitched a ride and was thrown off when a tender axle broke. Mr Bailey said: "The company's engineers took advantage of the *Rocket's* return for repairs to make improvements to the engine little more than a month after it had entered service. That indicates how fast things were moving.

"We will be studying how things were put together and why they changed them. We hope to publish all our findings later this year." A special camera will let them safely explore the train's inner workings.

*Rocket*, on display at the National Railway Museum, in York, is a mere shadow of Stephenson's creation. Refits to the smokebox and valves altered the original shape significantly and much of its copper and brasswork was stripped for scrap when it was retired in 1840. A half-hearted attempt to restore it for the 1851 Great Exhibition petered out when an intact rival was found and in 1862 it was rescued from obscurity by the predecessor of the Science Museum.

Mr Bailey said: "It would be an interesting project to see it restored to its original condition but that it not what we are doing."

## Church news

**Appointments**

The Rev Doreen Saxon, NSM, Tettenhall Wood Christ Church (Lichfield): to be NSM with special responsibility for Tettenhall Wood, Castleforth The Good Shepherd (same diocese).

The Rev Michael St John-Channell, Vicar, Staines St Mary and St Peter (London): to be Vicar Cirencester St John the Baptist (Gloucester).

The Rev Clive Styles, Team Vicar, Wednesfield St Augustine and St Chad (Lichfield): to be Rector, Ashwellthorpe, Forncett, Fundenhall, Hapton, Tacolneston and Wreningham (Norwich).

The Rev Michael Taylor, Priest-in-Charge, Jersey St Andrew (Winchester): has been appointed Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Philip Tait, Priest-in-Charge, Woodhorn w. Newbiggin-by-the-Sea (Newcastle): has been appointed Chaplain, HMP Wolds (York).

The Rev Barbara Way, Director of Ministry and Training (Canterbury): has been appointed Local Ministry Adviser (same diocese).

The Rev Dr Samuel Wells, Priest-in-Charge, Earlham St Elizabeth (Norwich): to be also Rural Dean of Norwich South (same diocese).

The Rev John Williams, Curate, Potters Bar (St Albans): has been appointed Curate, Bishop's Stortford St Michael (same diocese).

# Birthdays today

Mr Matthew Bannister, chief executive, BBC Productions, 42; Miss Teresa Berganza, mezzo-soprano, 64; Mr Bernardo Bertolucci, film director, 58; the Right Rev Hugo de Waal, Bishop of Thetford, 64; Sir Philip Foreman, mechanical engineer, 76; Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, 82; Sir Ewart Jones, FRS, chemist, 88; Sir Anthony Kenny, FBA, former President, British Academy, 68; Mr Leo McKern, actor, 79; Miss Georgina Nayler, former director, Pilgrim Trust, 40; Miss Kate Nelligan, actress, 48; Sir Roger Norrington, conductor, 65; Mr Richard G. Puttick, former chairman, Taylor Woodrow, 83; Miss Bridget Rowe, former managing director and Editor, *Sunday Mirror* and managing director, *The People*, 49; Mr John Watts, racehorse trainer, 57.

## School news

**Benenden School**

Benenden School is pleased to announce the following Scholarship Awards:

**Lower School Scholarships**

Anna Cantley (The Hemsted Scholarship) Walthamstow Hall Junior School; Jessica Corless (The Trust Music Scholarship) Dulwich Preparatory School; Jessica Dumbreck (The Hemsted Scholarship) Hilden Grange School; Victoria McArdle (The Founders' Scholarship) Marlborough House School; Georgina Robertson (The Bird Scholarship) Rowan Preparatory School; Tara Robinson (The Hindle Trust Music Scholarship) Dulwich Preparatory School; Annabel Watson (The Founders' Scholarship) Dulwich Preparatory School.

The following internal Scholarships were awarded at the start of this academic year:

**Sixth Form Honorary Scholarships**

Jennifer Belsum (Academic), Penelope Bennett (Academic), Li Lian Lim (Academic), Alexandra Reddig (Music), Evelyn Wujanto (Academic).

**Upper School Scholarships**

Clara Cheong (Academic), Yvette Chin (Academic), Marina Clement (Academic), Ileana Georgiadis (Academic), Clementine Harvey Academic), Victoria Law (Academic), Maisie Lee (Academic), Francesca Mann (Academic), Natalie Mestvirishvily (Academic), Marina Mooney (Art), Orawan Naraprueat(Academic), Narin Panichpakdi (Art), Abigail Smart (Academic), Caryn Wujanto (Academic).

**Honorary Upper School Scholarship**

Clara Cheong (Music).

**Design Technology Scholarship**

Laura Nasmyth.

**Harrow School**

**1999 Scholarships**

The following awards have been made:

Scholarships: S-D.G. Liddle (Orley Farm); J. Wigley (Maidwell Hall); A.G.E. Burgess (Lockers Park); A.J.S. Sharp (Milbourne Lodge); T.J-B. Peck (Twyford School).

Exhibitions: M.H. Symes-Thompson (Edge Grove); L. Oldfield (Caldicott); A. Rashid (Papplewick); P.H. Patel (Northwood Prep School).

Music Scholarships: A. Winter (St Paul's Cathedral School); J. Mooney-Dutton (Westminster Abbey Choir School); N.T. White (St Mary's College, Southampton); L.B. Whyatt (Papplewick).

Music Exhibitions: N.G.C. Arratoon (Orley Farm); M.H. Symes-Thompson (Edge Grove); C. Wheen (Brambletye); H.W.J Dickinson (Aysgarth).

Art Scholarship: D.E.E Peake (The Dragon).

Art Exhibitions: T.F.W. Wright (Orley Farm); T. Owen-Edmunds (Farleigh School).

## Meeting

**Royal Institute of International Affairs**

Mr Vartan Oskanian, Armenian Foreign Minister, was the speaker at a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs held yesterday at Chatham House.

# Forthcoming marriages

**Mr A.J. Barron and Miss E.S. Hallergard**

Adam, son of Derek and Rosemary Barron, and Susanne, daughter of Sandra and Krister Hallergard, announce their engagement.

**Mr R.A. Collins and Miss A.R. Royall**

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Paul Collins, of Church Farm, Lilbourne, Warwickshire, and Anna, daughter of District Judge and Mrs Martyn Royall, of Scarning, Norfolk.

**Mr C.R. Mason-Hornby and Miss C.J. Reid**

The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of the late Mr Anthony Mason-Hornby, and of Mrs Mason-Hornby, of Dalton Hall, Westmorland, and Cressida, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Reid, of Maplesden, East Sussex.

**Mr R.D.C. Thurner and Miss S. Evans**

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr Michael Thurner and Mrs Christine Thurner, of Littleton, Surrey, and Sian, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Evans, of Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

## Marriage

**Mr A.J. Bonner and Mrs A.M.J. Barry**

The marriage took place quietly at St Brigid's Church, Kilbride, Co Wicklow, between Mr Alan Bonner, of Widdington, Essex, and Mrs Aveen Barry, of Dublin and Wicklow.

## Lecture

**The Royal Academy of Engineering**

Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng, FRS, President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, presided at the 1999 Lloyd's Register Lecture held last night at 1 Great George Street, London, SW1. The guest speaker was Mr William O'Neil, CM, FEng, Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization of the United Nations, who spoke on 'Safety at Sea — Engineering Challenges'.

## Symposium

**Wilson Campbell Memorial**

A symposium to mark the end of the series of annual lectures in memory of Wilson Campbell was held yesterday at Newcastle upon Tyne University. Mr John Hammill, chairman of the memorial lectures committee, presided. Mr Roger Boissier, Professor Paul Braiden, Professor Ian Fells, Professor John Chesshire, Mr John Gaskell and Mr Malcolm Kennedy also spoke.

## Luncheon

**Rotary Club of London**

Mr John Davey was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Mr John Buchanan, president, was in the chair.



# PERSONAL COLUMN



You, LORD, are all I have, and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands. Psalm 16.5 (GNB).

## BIRTHS

ARNOLD - On March 13th in Oxford, to Jacqui and David, a daughter, Darcey Jessica.

BEAUDUIN - On March 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Natasja (Degrieck) and Stephane, a daughter, Tatiana, a sister for Sebastien.

BEVACQUA - On March 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Amina and Richard, a son, Maximilian Dominic.

BROUGHTON - To Nicola (née Purdon) and Michael, a son, Ewan Ross, in London on March 11th 1999. Deepest heartfelt thanks to the doctors, midwives, nurses and all staff at King's College Hospital.

BROWN - On March 4th to Anna (née Harris) and Richard, a daughter, Rosemary Anne, a sister for George, Eleanor and Edward.

BUBBERS - To Sharon (née White) and John, a delightful son, Oliver Daniel, born 27th January 1999. A brother for James and Lucy.

DAUGAARD - On March 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Katrin and Lars, a son, Christian Xavier, a brother for Lars Philip.

DIXON - On March 5th, to Tessa (née Robertson) and Adrian, a son, James Robert, a brother for Edward and Hugh.

DRYER - On March 10th 1999 at The Portland Hospital, to Lucy (née Pincus) and Darren, a son, Charles Isaac.

FRANKS - On March 13th to Willa (née Balfour) and George, a son, Arthur.

FRASER - On 13th March to James and Stephanie (née Struthers), a daughter, Iona Elizabeth.

GARDNER - On March 11th, to Felicity (née Newbold) and Adrian, a son, George Richard James, a brother for Camilla, Antonia and Henry.

GOVETT - On March 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Jennifer and David, a daughter, Natasha.

HAYWARD - On 9th March, to Sue (née Moss) and Edmund, a son, William Edwin John.

JAMES - On March 13th 1999 in Cranleigh, to Anneli (née Willcox) and Andy, a daughter, Katina Rhiannon Emmley, a sister for Diccon and Danica.

## BIRTHS

KRASINSKI - On 11th March in Warsaw, to Annie (née Molesworth-St.Aubyn) and Peter, a son, Adam Tadeusz Anthony.

MASTRANGELO - On March 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Sandra and Ralph, a son, Dominic George.

MATANLE - On March 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Vanessa (née Macdonald-Smith) and Stephen, a daughter, Imogen, a sister for Natasha and Sam.

STALKER - On 8th March 1999 at the Matilda Hospital in Hong Kong to Patsy (née Watters) and Anthony, a son, Toby Patrick Anthony, a brother for Sophie and Sasha.

VICKERS - On March 12th 1999 in Hampshire, to Elizabeth (née Vickers) and Hugo, a son, Arthur Hugo Blyth.

## DEATHS

ARCHER - General Sir John in his 76th year suddenly on Friday 12th March 1999. Dearly loved husband of Marie for 48 years, an inspiration to his two sons Jeremy and Simon, a tender father-in-law to Amanda and Nicki and an adoring grandfather to Sebastian, Charlotte and Georgina. He will be sorely missed both by the family and his many friends. The funeral will take place at 10.45 am on Friday 19th March at All Saints', Branksome Park, Poole and will be followed by a private committal. Any donations would be welcomed by either two of his treasured projects, The Military Museum of Devon & Dorset, The Keep, Dorchester DT1 1RN (01305 264 066) or The Gurkha Welfare Trust, 88 Baker Street, London W1M 2AE (0171 707 1925). There will be a memorial service later.

ARMSTRONG - Bamburgh. The Rt Hon Lady Maria Theresa passed away peacefully at The Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, London on 15th March 1999. Private cremation. Memorial details later.

BAKER WILBRAHAM - On 12th March 1999 peacefully at home Joyce Katharine Baker Wilbraham MBE, much loved aunt and great-aunt, in her 97th year. Funeral Monday 22nd March 12 noon at Christ Church, Chelsea, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to REFRESH, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 7EH.

## DEATHS

BATES - His Honour Stewart Taverner Bates Q.C. peacefully on March 13th 1999 after years of illness borne with courage and humour aged 72. Cherished companion for fifty years of Anne, beloved of his children Charlotte, Juliet, Alastair, Arabella, Rebecca and Barnaby, and his eight grandchildren. Funeral Service at St John's, Horsington on Friday, 19th March at 3.30 pm followed by private interment. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu to Horsington Parish Church Restoration Fund or Save the Children (Sherborne Branch) c/o Mr Harold Miles, Funeral Director, Winton Cottage, South Cadbury, Somerset (tel: 01963 440367). Memorial Service in London to be announced.

BOASE - Alice Mary, peacefully on 11th March, aged 88. Widow of Arthur. Dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Requiem Mass at the Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Philip Neri, Uckfield - date to be arranged. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for the library fund, Loreto Convent Nyakato School, Tanzania (cheques to "Cooper & Son"). Donations and funeral enquiries to Cooper & Son, Uckfield (01825) 763 763.

BREWER - Vivien Jayne, aged 56. Peacefully at the Marie Curie Hospice, Caterham, on the afternoon of the 12th March. Much loved wife of Marc and mother of Charles and Catherine. She will be deeply missed. Funeral service to be held at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Balcombe Road, Crawley, at 2.30pm on Friday 19th March. Family flowers only please, donations to the Marie Curie Hospice or R.N.L.I. c/o Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Reigate Road, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 6AZ.

BROWNRIGG - Herbert Annesley (Bertie) passed away unexpectedly but peacefully on March 9th. He will be sadly missed by his wife June, his daughters Gay and Melita and his many dear friends.

BURRELL - Theodore Stanley Burrell OBE, husband of Doreen and father of Kate, on March 12th. Retired National Park Officer for the Peak District National Park. Private cremation. Donations if desired to The Parkinson's Disease Society, Bath Branch, c/o 74 Pickwick Road, Corsham, SN13 9DB, tel: (01249) 715860.

BUXTON - On March 12th 1999, peacefully at Bolton Hospice, Bernard aged 71 years, loving father of Sarah. All enquires to Co-operative Funeral Service Bolton, tel 01204 307151.

CAYZER - On 13th March peacefully at home in Palm Beach, Florida, Major Harold Stanley Cayzer 11th Hussars (P.A.O.) in the loving care of Beatrice his devoted wife for 28 years. Funeral March 20th 11 am St Edward's Church, Palm Beach.

COOK - On March 14th peacefully in Newland House Residential Home, Witney. Elsie Ida May in her 101st year, formerly of Plumstead, London SE18. Aunt of Joan Darlow of East End, North Leigh, Oxon. Deeply loved by her family and treasured by her friends. All enquiries to E Taylor and Son F/D tel 01993 842421.

DARLING - on Thursday 11th March 1999 Terence of Cuckfield, West Sussex. Very dearly loved husband of Tippy and proud and loving father of Mark, Rory and Giles. Service of thanksgiving on Friday 19th March at Holy Trinity Church, Cuckfield at 12 noon. Please no flowers but if you wish donations payable to RNLI c/o P & S Gallagher, Fraser House, Triangle Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4HW. Tel 01444 451168.

DARLOW - See Cook.

DONIGER - Joseph aged 88 on March 14th, widower of Renée, and much loved father of Caroline Clegg and Pamela Dixon, and grandfather of Daniel, Lionel, Harriet and Jack. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Monday 22nd March at 12.30pm. No flowers, but donations if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care 17 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7XZ.

DÖRY de JOBAHÁZA - Augusta on March 11th in London aged 90, dearly loved mother of Elizabeth Temple-Richards, grandmother of Nicholas and Alexandra and great-grandmother of Harry and Alice, William, Augusta and Charlotte. Family funeral.

FLETCHER - Nancy Christine (Christine Glanville) on 1st March after a short illness. Greatly missed by her family and friends. Cremation at Chiltern's Crematorium, Amersham on Friday 19th March at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please.

GRAVELL - David William on Thursday 11th March 1999, much loved husband of Cecil and father of James, Oliver, Eleanor and Humphrey, brother to Primrose Wilson and grandfather of 14. Private cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's, Leigh, Kent at 2.30pm on Monday 22nd March. No flowers. Donations if wished to The Stroke Association. Enquiries, Francis Chappell and Sons, 27 London Road, Sevenoaks. 01732 450203.

HANDS - On March 11th 1999 very suddenly in hospital Jeremy Gyles Hargrave aged 47 years. Dearly beloved husband of Margaret, loving son of Daphne and Hargrave Hands. Funeral Service at St Margaret's Church, Hardley, Norfolk on Wednesday 17th March 1999 at 1 pm. Flowers or donations if desired for Hardley Church Restoration Fund and cheques made payable to Hardley P.C.C. may be sent to John Brown Funeral Services, 102 North Walsham Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR6 7QQ please.

HARDING - George William, late of the Parachute Regiment Cyprus and Suez, died after a short illness on 13th March. Funeral at Salvation Army Hall, Willingham, Cambridgeshire at 12 noon on Friday 19th March.

HARRIS - Lieut. General Sir Ian (Tommy) KBE, CBE, CB, DSO, died in his 89th year on March 12th after a short illness borne as he had lived quietly and with courage; beloved husband of Anne-Marie, father of Cecil (deceased) and Armor and grandfather of Georgina, Catherine, Julian and Christien. Funeral service at the Cashel, Co. Tipperary Church of Ireland Cathedral at 11.30am on Tuesday, the 16th March. No flowers please, but donations to the Royal Ulster Rifles Benevolent Fund, 5 Waring Street, Belfast. Details of Memorial service to be announced in due course.

HAY - Elizabeth (née Childe) widow of Alan. Died peacefully on 12th March.

HILL - Geoffrey Esmond Benedict at home on 13th March 1999 aged 75. Much loved husband of Marjorie and father of Robert, Virginia and Justin. Requiem Mass at The Holy Redeemer, Upper Church Road, Hollington, St Leonards on Sea at noon on Friday 19th March. Committal at Hastings Crematorium, The Ridge, at a later date.

HILLS - Ivan Edward aged 84, on 12th March. Loving and dearly loved husband of Mary, much loved father of Tom and Lucy and grandfather of Jim and Jules. Private cremation followed by a Service at St Mary's Church, Frensham at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 23rd March. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Frensham and Dockenfield Churches Appeal (cheques payable to Frensham PCC) c/o Thorne-Leggett, Petersfield Road, Whitehill, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9AR.

HOPE - Sir Peter KCMG., TD. died peacefully at King Edward VII Hospital on 12th March 1999 aged 86 years. Husband of Hazel, father of Jeremy, Adrian and (late) Richard. Private funeral to take place at Midhurst R.C. Church on Thursday 18th March at 11.30am followed by burial in Midhurst (private family service at graveside). Family flowers only but donations if desired to British Association Of The Sovereign Military Order of Malta (BASMOM) or the Hospital of St John & St Elizabeth, c/o L.F. Lintott and Son, North Street, Midhurst GU29 9DG. 01730 813264.

HUNTLEY - John Francis Burra aged 91 on 11th March 1999. Dearly loved by Rosemary and his family. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Boxwell on Friday 19th March at 2.30pm. No flowers. Donations if desired to Boxwell Church Charitable Trust c/o Cowley & Son Ltd, Triangle House, 62 Victoria Road, Cirencester, Glos GL7 1ES. Telephone 01285 653298.

KENNARD - Robert Adam (Bob) - on March 13th 1999 peacefully at Wolfeton Manor, Charminster. Brother of Pamela and Colin, fondly remembered husband of Mary and father of Elizabeth and Robin. Private cremation.

KENT - Phoebe Moffat, aged 25, suddenly on 13th March in Melbourne, beloved and beautiful daughter of Prue Byng. A service of thanksgiving to be announced later.

LEBUS - Christina, aged 44, adored wife of Tim and mother of David, died peacefully at home on 13th March after an indomitable struggle against cancer. Family funeral to be followed in April by a Service of Thanksgiving. No flowers but donations, if wished, to WellBeing, 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SP.

LYALL GRANT - On 12th March, Douglas Gavin Lyall Grant, loved father of Nicholas and Fiona, dear brother of Daphne, Jane and Susan. Grateful thanks to the wonderful staff of The Royal British Legion Home, Mais House, Bexhill for their friendship and care.

MARSHAM - Lady Anne Rhoda, aged 89 years, peacefully in Norfolk on March 13th 1999, sister of the Earl of Romney. Funeral at St Marys Church, Roughton on Wednesday March 17th at 2.30pm. No letters please.

MUSGRAVE - Elizabeth (née Pinckney) formerly Waldron. On 11th March at Nether Place Nursing Home, Keswick, devoted and much loved wife of the late John Rigg Musgrave, after a long illness fought bravely and with great dignity. Much loved by her four sons and extended family. Cremation on Friday 19th March at 12.40pm at Carlisle Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Parkinson's Disease Society c/o Jack Robinson Undertaker, 27 High Brigham, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 0TE.

PHILLIPS - Robert John (Bob) Chartered Architect, aged 65. Loving husband of Shirley and much loved father and friend of Mark, Christine, Alison and Ian. Funeral at Canford Crematorium, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol on March 17th at 1.30 pm. All friends welcome.

POTTER - Barbara Purcell on March 10th 1999, much loved mother and grandmother. Enquiries to Bowley Funeral Service (01273) 841711.

RICHE-EVANS - Herbert of St Margarets died March 12th aged 92 peacefully after a short illness. Riche will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. No services will be held. Donations to Amnesty International.

RIGBY - Sir Hugh John Macbeth peacefully on Sunday March 14th. Much loved father of Anthony, Hugh, Jamie and Steve and devoted grandfather. All enquiries to Hooley Watson and Buckley (01625) 422734.

SEAGRAM - Sheila Stephanie Congreve. Peacefully at Salisbury on 13th March, 1999 aged 92 years. Widow of Tom Ogle Seagram, formerly of Wylye. Funeral Service on Friday 19th March at 10.20am at Salisbury Crematorium. No flowers but donations direct to a charity of choice for animals. Enquiries to I.N. Newman Ltd., 01722 413136.

SEFTON - March 12th at St Johns Hospice, Lancaster, Charlotte Leila aged 85 years of Cumbria, dearly loved wife of Michael and mother of Philip, Patrick and Christopher. Funeral service and interment at Holy Trinity Church, Winster on Friday 19th March at 2.00pm. Family flowers only and donations if so desired to St Johns Hospice or Cancer Research c/o A. G. Clarke, The Ashes, Cartmel Fell, Grange-on-Sands, LA11 6NU. Tel 015395 31481.

SORBY - (Née Mallet) Kate - Peacefully at home in Argentina, on 13th March. Widow of Major Robert Sorby MBE formerly of the Indian Cavalry. Adored mother of Maxine, Smoky, Roberta, Mark and grandmother of Victoria and Robert. Cremation service in Neuquen. Memorial service in England to be announced in this column. Donations if desired to The Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain, International Schizophrenia Centre, Bryn Hyfryd, The Crescent, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2AG.

STANBURY - Philip, adored father of Marlene, Penny and Anthony, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday March 14th. He will be greatly missed by his sister Diana, daughter-in-law Elizabeth, sons-in-law Brian and Bruce and by all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The funeral will take place today, Tuesday March 16th 4 pm at Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane.

STEWART - Phyllis Mary (née Cave). At Peebles on 12th March 1999, Phyllis, widow of John Philip Stewart, MD, FRCSE (Ed). Requiem Mass at St Joseph's R.C. Church, Rosetta Road, Peebles at 10.30am on Friday 19th March followed by private cremation. No flowers.

VEITCH - James Wallace - dearly beloved husband of Patricia and father of Alister and John, grandfather of Jessica and Hamish. Peacefully at home on 13th March. Funeral service Friday, 19th March, 11.30 am at Duns Tew Church. Enquiries to J&M Humphris Funeral Directors (01295) 265424.

WARD - Bertha Elizabeth aged 93 years in hospital in Norfolk, formerly of Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire. Wife of the late Arthur Harry, mother of Anne (dec'd) grandmother of Andrew, Christopher, Glenn and Jason.

WHEATLEY PRICE - Thomas. Peacefully on March 14th 1999 in his 99th year. Beloved husband of the late Con, dearly loved father of Michael, Ruth and John, dear father-in-law of Diana, Michael and Jean and proud grandfather to his nine grandchildren and eighteen great-grandchildren. Private cremation. Thanksgiving Service at St George's, Preshute, Marlborough, Wiltshire at 12.30pm on Friday the 19th of March. Gifts in his memory to the Church Mission Society.

WHITMARSH - John Marshall of Richard's Castle, near Ludlow. On 9th March peacefully in his 90th year. Widower of Betty, much loved father, father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather. Donations to A. Hoskins & Son, (01584) 872048.

WOODROW - Jocelyn passed away on 10th March 1999 after a bravely fought illness. She will be sadly missed by her loving father Arthur, devoted sons James and William and much loved granddaughters Rebecca and Lucy, family and friends. The funeral service will take place at Fulham St Mary Church on Thursday 18th March at 12 noon, followed by cremation at St Faiths Crematorium at 1.30pm. All friends are invited to either or both services. Flowers or donations if desired for Leukaemia Research Fund, c/o Rackhams Funeral Service, Stanley Road, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 3BN.

YORK - Christopher in his 90th year. Loving husband of Pauline and much loved father of Edward, Caroline, Louise and Mary, grandfather and great- grandfather. Private family funeral. Memorial service in All Saints Church, Long Marston at 2.00pm Friday 19th March. No flowers please.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

HARRISON - Capt F.V. Harrison R.N. (retd). A Thanksgiving Service will take place at St Mary's, Bourne Street, SW1, on May 11th at 12 noon.

## IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

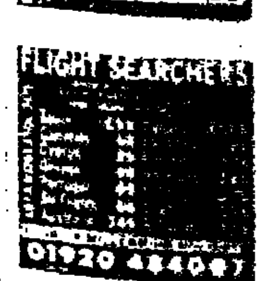
CRACKNELL - In ever loving memory of Freda, dearly beloved first wife of Desmond and mother of Valerie, Vivienne, Roger and Victor, who passed away on March 16th 1980. Our brave, brave "wee one" now safe in the arms of God.

SMITH - Betty J, (née Robertson), and Rosamund. Always remembered, especially today. Ian and the family.

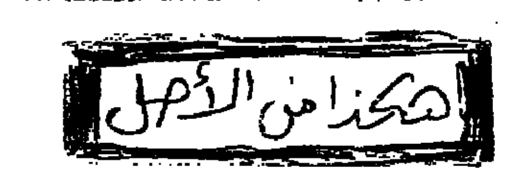
WARD-THOMAS - On 16th March 1995, our dearly beloved daughter Kitty, always in our hearts. Ma and Pa.











# OBITUARIES



## GARSON KANIN

**Garson Kanin, playwright and Hollywood director and screenwriter, died on March 13 aged 86. He was born on November 24, 1912.**

A prolific writer and director who was best known for *Born Yesterday*, Garson Kanin worked his way up through showbusiness, and in fifty years saw almost every aspect, from touring theatre to Hollywood stardom. He did everything from playing a comedy stooge to writing a new English libretto for *Die Fledermaus*, and was involved with several Oscar-winning films. As secretary of the Directors Guild during the 1950s, he also stood up for some in the industry against the bullying tactics of Senator McCarthy.

By his own account, he kept trying to write serious drama but found that it turned out funny. At worst this could mean merely facetious, and Kanin had his share of withering reviews, including one that spoke of sitting in a state of "numbed horror" through a piece of "theatrical malpractice".

In all he wrote 32 plays, worked on 29 films and wrote 14 books, including memoirs of friends such as Somerset Maugham. He was a prolific short-story writer, his name cropping up everywhere from *Good Housekeeping* to *Playboy*, and some of his tales were later televised. He said that he became ill if he was deprived of work for three days.

Garson Kanin was virtually born into the cinema, but his family was only on the bottom rung: his father ran a New York picture house. Talent and application were needed to propel him up the ladder, and Kanin found that entertainment could be a bitchy business, but he never lost his boyish love of a good storyline and a good show.

He left school at 16 during the Depression and set out to be a musician. Working as a stock boy and messenger during the day, he played clarinet and honky-tonk saxophone at night. Briefly, he led his own band, Garson Kay and the Red Peppers, but he was always ambitious to extend his range and repertoire. In the old-fashioned way of the American immigrant family, he wanted to better himself.

For two years he was a keen student at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and this led to his first small part, as Tommy Deal in the play *Little Ol' Boy* in 1933. Next he heard about auditions for a part paying $60 a week in *Ladies' Money*, by the well established actor, writer, director and producer George Abbott. The part of Red required red hair, which Kanin didn't have — but he did have a friend prepared to lend him the money to have his dyed. Abbott took to him, and employed him as an assistant, which meant directing travelling companies in shows such as *Three Men on a Horse* and *Boy Meets Girl*. He also had an opportunity to direct on Broadway — and fluffed it.





Garson Kanin, with Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn appearing together for the first time in *Woman of the Year*

But when still only 23, Kanin was summoned to Hollywood by Sam Goldwyn, who had heard that he was "a very clever genius" and took him on without quite saying what for. One of Kanin's tasks was to come up with Goldwynisms for the studio's press office, such as "In two words, impossible". He later revealed that the quip department was the true source of the lines "a verbal contract is not worth the paper it is written on," and "anyone who sees a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined". Decades later Kanin further elaborated the Goldwyn legend, and others, in books and a television series, *Moviola*: he never wasted material, even if it was sometimes spun from secondhand threads.

Running errands on the set of *Hitch Your Wagon* did not quash the young Kanin's enthusiasm to direct. He studied every aspect of the movies, analysing them for strengths and techniques, and he venerated the men who made them. "I'd rather be Frank Capra than God," he said. "If there is a Frank Capra."

He also became a lifelong friend of Thornton Wilder, who at first was flabbergasted by his ignorance and urged him to meet as many famous people as possible and write down what they said. Later it was Wilder who encouraged Kanin to write for the stage.

Frustrated at not having a proper job, Kanin left Goldwyn — making sure to remain on good terms — and moved to RKO Radio, where his first directing assignment was *A Man to Remember* (1938). In the same year he won plaudits for *The Great Man Votes*, with John Barrymore.

The films he made before America entered the war were remarkable for famous pairings. *Bachelor Mother* in 1939 boasted both David Niven and Ginger Rogers (whom Kanin directed again in 1941 in *Tom, Dick and Harry*), and *My Favorite Wife* in 1940 starred Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. That year's *They Knew What They Wanted* brought together Carole Lombard and the notoriously difficult Charles Laughton — to critical acclaim.

Kanin himself was half of a fruitful if sparring partnership, for five of his scripts were written in collaboration with his wife of 43 years, the actress Ruth Gordon, whom he married in 1942.

That was the year he helped to write *Woman of the Year*, though the officially credited writers — who took an Oscar — were his brother Michael Kanin and Ring Lardner Jr. A gentle comedy about a sports columnist who struggles to keep up with his politically ambitious wife, the film was notable for bringing together Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn, who were to co-star in a number of films in the 1940s and 1950s (and were later the subject of an imperceptive memoir by Kanin). Perhaps the best of these films was *Adam's Rib* (1949), written by Kanin and his wife, who were nominated for an Oscar.

During the war Kanin served as an officer in a US Army film unit, beginning with training films in New Jersey. He was then posted to London to make a joint production with the British about the Allied invasion of Europe, from D-Day to the fall of Berlin. *The True Glory*, which he directed with Carol Reed, used newsreel footage and a strong patriotic commentary to impressive effect, and was much appreciated by the critics. It won the Oscar for best documentary in 1945, and was named Best Film by the National Board of Review.

Living at Claridges with buzz-bombs falling all around, Kanin had nothing to do in the evenings, so to stop himself drinking too much he began to write a serious film about a sleazeball in Washington with a string of mistresses. However, he soon realised that censorship would make it impossible to film — "we're talking about a time when kisses used to be timed with a stopwatch" — so *Born Yesterday* was born as a play.

The middlebrow three-act piece which opened on Broadway in 1946 was not serious, not a film and not about politics. Instead it was a comedy in the school of *Pygmalion* and *Educating Rita*: a tycoon is embarrassed by the gaffes made by his bimbo, but when she — like Kanin — tries to improve herself with a liberal education, she discovers that he is the one who is "not couth".

Jean Arthur dropped out of the part in rehearsals, giving Judy Holliday the opening that made her name. The show ran in New York for 1,642 performances, and was revived as recently as 1989.

Marilyn Monroe was among Kanin's suggestions for the film role — he liked the way she played sex as a "gorgeous joke" — but the studio bosses at Columbia thought she lacked star quality. Given the part again, Holliday won an Oscar in 1950. She was later to appear in Kanin and Gordon's *The Marrying Kind* (1952).

Kanin wrote three flimsy plays in 1949-50, and his later theatre work included a staging of *The Diary of Anne Frank* in 1955 (for which he interviewed surviving friends), *Sunday in New York* in 1961, and *Funny Girl* in 1964, with Barbra Streisand. He also wrote and directed the musical *Do-Re-Mi*, which came to London in 1961. He wrote and wrote, latterly for the shelf rather than the stage or screen, and at 72 became president of the Authors League of America.

Kanin's first wife, Ruth Gordon, was 16 years his senior and died in 1985. Five years later he married the actress Marian Seldes, who was 16 years his junior and who survives him.

## SIR PETER HOPE

**Sir Peter Hope, KCMG, TD, diplomat, died on March 12 aged 86. He was born on May 29, 1912.**

PETER HOPE was a versatile diplomat who served in MI5 and MI6 as well as in the conventional Diplomatic Service. After his retirement he made a new career in business as a director of several companies and as an international adviser to several others. He also developed a talent for fundraising for his favourite charities.

Charles Peter Hope was educated at the Oratory School; at Imperial College, London, where he studied mathematics; and then at Cambridge. He joined the Royal Horse Artillery in 1937 and retired as major in 1946, but his attachment to the Army was largely nominal. In fact he joined MI6 in 1938, was in at the start of Special Operations Executive in 1940, and in 1941 transferred to MI5, where his gift for languages led him to specialise in the interrogation of continental Europeans coming to England. In the winter of 1944 he went to SHAEF headquarters, to locate British traitors. He was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration in 1945.

After the war Hope transferred to the Foreign Office and became Temporary First Secretary (Administration) at the British Embassy in Paris from 1946 to 1950. This dull-sounding change from intelligence work was nothing of the kind, but presented a considerable challenge, on which he always looked back with relish. He was responsible for two thousand personnel, all of whom had to be supplied from England (even food and coal were imported) in order to avoid involvement with the French black market. He also coped imperturbably with his Ambassador, Sir Alfred Duff Cooper, and with the redoubtable Lady Diana.

From 1950 to 1952 he was assistant head of the United Nations Department at the Foreign Office. The Korean War occupied much of his time, but he also worked closely with the Colonial Office on new plans for Africa.

Hope served in Germany from 1953 to 1956, first as acting Head of Chancery and then as chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee at Mönchengladbach, and was appointed CMG in 1956. He then spent the most demanding three and a half years of his career as head of news department in the Foreign Office. Four days after he took over the department, the Israelis invaded Egypt. As Foreign Office spokesman he had to deal with hostile press and television throughout the Suez crisis and learnt the arts of knowing when he should speak attributably and of gaining the journalists' trust.

During his period in news department Hope accompanied Harold Macmillan on his "wind of change" tour of Africa. He witnessed an unnerving row with Khrushchev, and was present at a "fence-mending" meeting with President Eisenhower in Bermuda and at Eisenhower's return visit to London.

From 1959 to 1962 Hope served as Minister at the British Embassy in Madrid, where he made no progress on the Gibraltar question, but persuaded the Spanish Foreign Ministry to reopen 17 non-Catholic churches, which had been closed by Franco. He was promoted KCMG in 1962. There followed two years as Consul-General in Houston and four as Alternate British Delegate to the United Nations, under Lord Caradon.

In 1968 he went as Ambassador to Mexico. During his four years in post British exports to Mexico trebled. It was the time of the students' revolution (though Hope believed that behind them were more professional agitators, trained at Lumumba University and in North Korea), and the residence and office building were surrounded by troops. There were two unsuccessful bomb attacks and at the World Cup many Coca-Cola bottles were thrown at him. Despite the troubles, the Duke of Edinburgh paid a long visit to the Olympic Games of 1968 and stayed 17 days at the embassy.

Hope was a devout Catholic. He was a Knight of Justice of the Venerable Order of St John (the Knights of Malta) and a member of the order's governing body, in which he took a keen interest. He had many business connections, one of the most unusual of which involved negotiations with the Colombian Government over the raising of old Spanish wrecks.

In retirement in West Sussex he shot and fished, made a host of friends who valued him as a man of unfailing kindness and a lively raconteur, and continued, even in old age, to pay visits to his small farm in Spain. He took an active part in the Conservative Association and in the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

He married Hazel Turner in 1936. She survives him, along with two of their three sons.

## BIDU SAYAO

**Baldovina "Bidú" Sayão, Brazilian soprano, died on March 12 aged 96. She was born in Rio de Janeiro on May 11, 1902.**

BIDU SAYAO was not only Brazil's greatest operatic soprano. She was also one of the last remaining links with the Golden Age of singing. During a career which spanned more than thirty years she appeared with Pertile and Gigli, Schipa and Thill. Indeed when Thill died she claimed that the era of great French tenors had passed for ever.

Sayão never claimed to have a big voice and towards the end of her career it lost some of its volume. But it had a diamond-sharp edge and was used with great refinement. There was never anything remotely vulgar about the Sayão style of singing, and she made the most of her very feminine charms on stage. She was pert and pretty as Mozart's Susanna and Gounod's Juliette and quite capable of tugging a heartstring or two as Puccini's Mimi. She was always careful never to venture into the heavier roles of the Italian and French repertoire.

Her career began and ended in her native Rio. She made her debut there as Rosina in *The Barber of Seville* in 1924. And although she eventually took up American citizenship, she chose the same city for her farewell tour in 1958, including three of her favourite roles: Mimi, Juliette and Debussy's Mélisande.

Bidú Sayão's rise to prominence was almost the stuff of which Hollywood was made. Her father died when she was four and she was extremely strictly brought up by her mother, who devoted her own life to her daughter. Bidú's early ambitions to be an actress were very much frowned upon in a family where the stage was not considered to be a respectable profession. However, she was allowed to take singing lessons. One of the teachers, Madame Teodorini, was Romanian and when she suddenly decided to return to her native country Bidú Sayão followed her there.

The reward was to appear in a concert given for Queen Marie of Romania, who was sufficiently impressed to send Sayão to study with Jean de Reszke. She was one of his last pupils before his death in 1925 and it was he who put the idea into her head that she might be an opera singer and not just a concert performer.



Vocal gifts used with great refinement: Bidú Sayão in 1954

After that Rio debut much of her early career was spent in Rome, where she sang coloratura parts, such as Amina in Bellini's *La sonnambula* and Adina in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*. Then came Paris and the Opéra Comique, with Massenet and Gounod. There was also Reynaldo Hahn, who coached her personally in *Si mes vers avaient des ailes*.

She came to the attention of Arturo Toscanini, who trained her for her American concert debut, in Debussy, at the Carnegie Hall in 1934. And it was New York which provided the house with which she will always be most associated, the Met, where she appeared as Manon in 1937. She sang there until 1951, moving gradually to more lyric roles such as Mélisande and Verdi's Violetta.

To the regret of many she never appeared there as Donizetti's Lucia: that role was reserved for Lily Pons.

During her last years in New York her career was closely monitored by her second husband, the baritone Giuseppe Danise. He was careful to steer her away from all parts that might have overtaxed the voice. Rudolf Bing, the new general administrator at the Met, was not a Sayão admirer and the Brazilian soprano took her leave of the house with a performance of *La Bohème*, with the up-and-coming Giuseppe di Stefano partnering her.

She broke her retirement briefly to record *Floresta Amazonica* for her friend and compatriot, Hector Villa-Lobos. She had long been one of his favoured interpreters. Thereafter she was content to live in retirement on the Maine coast.

## ON THIS DAY

### March 16, 1938

*Adolf Hitler, speaking with great emotion, described the joining together of the German and Austrian states as the greatest achievement of his life. Hitler was, of course, born in Austria.*

### AUSTRIA TAKEN OVER NAZI REJOICINGS IN VIENNA

Vienna, March 15

Herr Hitler, speaking before the Austrian War Memorial this morning with such emotion that he had not full control of his voice, proclaimed that Austria, the oldest of the German military marches, was to resume her traditional mission as the bastion of the German Reich in the east, the iron guarantor of the Reich freedom and security.

Herr Hitler said that he was certain that the East March would master its task as well as it had done of old. It must have occurred to some of Herr Hitler's hearers that the old East March, in the course of mastering its task, gave the bastion a very extensive glacis.

Herr Hitler said that he had to report to the German nation the greatest achievement of his life, the entry of his homeland into the German Reich.

German men and women (said Herr Hitler), within a few days there has been a revolution in the community of the German people the extent of which we are able to see today, but the significance of which only later generations can measure. In recent years those at the head of the régime which has been overthrown often spoke of the special mission which in their eyes this country had to fulfil. The role of the so-called independence of Austria which was founded in the Peace Treaties and was dependent on the grace of the foreigner was to hinder the creation of a truly great German Reich and to bar the way to the German people's future.

I now proclaim for this land its new mission. Its mission answers to the vocation which once called hither German settlers from all parts of the old Reich. The oldest East March of the German people is from now on to be the newest bastion of the German nation and so of the German Reich. For centuries in the unquiet times of the past the storms of the east broke on the frontiers of the old march. For centuries more, for all the future she is to be again an iron guarantor of the security and freedom of the German Reich and so a surety for the happiness and peace of our great people. And I know this, the old East March of the German people will fulfil its new task just as the old task was solved and mastered.

I speak in the name of the millions of men, of this wonderfully beautiful German land, and, above all, in the name of the city of Vienna, when in this moment I assure the 68,000,000 of other fellow-Germans in our broad Reich: "This land is German."

The new military significance to be given to Austria was brought home to the Viennese this afternoon as the columns of the German Army (now including the Austrian Army), led by 150 tanks, marched or rode down the Ringstrasse for more than two hours after parading before the Führer. Over the housetops roared the engines of 150 bombers and about 80 other aeroplanes, startling the pigeons, and even the dogs, who are not yet accustomed in Vienna to the panoply of modern war.

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The project will include a survey of target audiences and recommendations for the most effective communication methods.

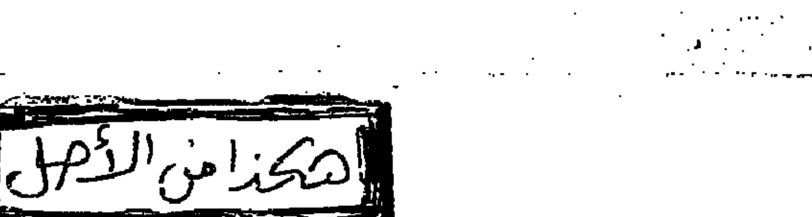
***A detailed project specification is available from Mr S O'Brien, Supplies Manager, Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust, Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley.***

***Formal expressions of interest are required by 1.4.99.***

### COMPUTERS & COMPUTING SERVICES







# Chancellor's package misses mark

## Henrietta Lake says that Budget measures will be of help to only a small number of firms

Small and medium-sized companies are totting up the cost of last week's Budget, with many finding themselves out of pocket. Most of Gordon Brown's policy decisions concerning small firms were wide of the mark, such as the research and development tax reliefs, which, according to some observers, targeted the wrong companies.

Other changes, such as the extensions to national insurance, simply added to the financial burden of smaller firms.

The package of pro-enterprise measures from research and development to corporate venturing have raised the profile of smaller, growing firms, but many of these impressive-sounding initiatives are burdened by so many restrictions and qualifications that they will benefit only a small percentage of companies.

Mike Warburton, senior tax partner at Grant Thornton, the accountants, said that many of the changes announced in the Budget will simply add to the complexity: "1999 is going to be an administrative nightmare for firms, from the Working Time Directive to the minimum wage, national insurance changes plus, from October, tax credits for working families and disabled people. The Government must address this now."

The new 10 per cent band of corporation tax brings a tax break for the very smallest companies. For the remainder, however, it adds complexity. Only firms with taxable profits of up to £10,000 will benefit from the full 10 per cent rate, a maximum saving for any firm of £1,000.

Sheen Sullivan from Pannell Kerr Forster, the accountants, said: "I am very worried about multiplicity of tax bands. We are now faced with a tax system with about 60 different tax rates. People who have never had to fill out a tax return in their life are likely to be deterred from leaving the security of employment within a company and setting out on their own. This defeats the purpose of creating risk-takers."

Life not only becomes more complicated for most firms but also more expensive. One of the most costly changes is the extensions to employers' national insurance contributions. From April 2000 firms must pay NI on all employee benefits, from private medical insurance to living accommodation and loans.

David Oakden, who runs Weiland Electronics, a manufacturing firm based in Guildford, says these changes will cost £150 extra per employee.

"It is hard to get good people in this part of the world. I need to offer them good packages, including health and insurance benefits, which I will now have to pay national insurance contributions on. The Budget simply means I will have to restrict the number of people I hire."

NI will now be charged at a level rate of 12.2 per cent for the tax year 1999-2000, going down to 11.7 per cent the following year.

Mr Oakden added: "What I object to is the Chancellor saying we are all getting tax cuts, but most of the initiatives apply to the smallest firms or start-ups. For the rest of us, costs are rising."

Richard Baldwin at Deloitte & Touche, the accountants, said: "Don't forget that stamp duty and fuel duty increases also affect companies. The benefits of many initiatives will quickly be wiped out by new costs."

Many of the new schemes announced by the Chancellor are not as straightforward as they might appear. The details of the research and development tax credits — 12.5 per cent for taxpaying companies and 24 per cent for those who are not — announced the day after the Budget are typical. Only new or small firms are eligible for the tax cuts on investments above £50,000, and only if they are receiving no other subsidies or grants.

"It also seems to defeat the purpose that companies which have not yet started trading are not eligible," said David Bellringer, of Arthur Andersen, the accountants. "Many of the high-tech, fast-growing firms that the Government says it is trying to target need the investment at their very earliest stages."

The methods by which most small firms recoup the R&D benefit, through a deduction against corporation tax contributions, does nothing to alleviate the problem of cashflow, because of the time between investment and deduction.

Geoff Edwards, of Grant Thornton, believes that the relief is being targeted at the wrong firms and excludes those which stand to gain the most because of the amount they spend on R&D. These slightly larger firms are more likely to drive Britain's productivity.

"I think it may be a case of too little, too late," said Mr Edwards.

While the owners and managers of Britain's four million small and medium-sized firms start to cost some of the implications of the Budget, they may wish that Mr Brown had simply left things as they were.

BEN GURR



Loose ends: David Oakden said rising NI costs will force him "to restrict the numbers I hire"

IN BRIEF

## UK firms slow to exploit Web

■ UK companies are frighteningly far behind their European, let alone their American, counterparts when it comes to recognising the competitive threat imposed by the Internet on their home market.

Research unveiled by Oracle, the software company, and the Institute of Directors shows that only 2 per cent of British companies thought the Internet posed a threat from firms using the Web outside the UK. By contrast, 14 per cent of US firms, 23 per cent of Norwegian and 17 per cent of German firms were worried about competition.

Although UK business leaders considered their own companies to be innovative in their use of IT, they criticised the rest of the UK as laggards. British firms were also less aware of opportunities offered by the Internet, with fewer than one in 25 believing that costs could be reduced by using the Web.

Tim Melville-Ross, director-general of the IoD, said: "The UK is uniquely well-positioned to take advantage of the Internet. We've got the benefit of English, the Internet language, some of the brightest IT skills in the world and a strong economy. We ought to be in the first rank of nations taking the leap forward. Instead, our survey shows we are resting on our laurels."

■ **The decision on the fate of local training and enterprise councils has been deferred yet again so that their role in the delivery of the new Small Business Service can be explored. However, some recommendations of the long-overdue report, launched last July, have been announced. These are to strengthen partnerships and accountability, improve the quality of work-based training and streamline contracting with providers. The full review is expected this summer. Comments should be sent to Val Kenton, W3b, Moorfoot, Sheffield, S1 4PQ or *val.kenton-consult@dfee.gov.uk*.**

■ Companies need to recognise the importance of confidentiality in their whistle-blowing telephone "hotlines" for staff. Manchester University has conducted a report showing that for hotlines to be effective, they must be free of charge, accessible 24 hours a day and widely publicised. Copies of the report can be obtained by calling 0181-362 5983.

■ Outdated management approaches constrain competitiveness, according to a report commissioned by the Institute of Personnel and Development. It recommends that managers must drop common assumptions: all that counts is the performance that top management see; people's future employability is of no concern; and that managers decide what people need and trainers implement.





**PETER CORNTHWAITE, group finance director at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, which has been in the family for more than 100 years and has just over 300 employees, says stop the phasing out of profit-related pay.**

"The Chancellor's scheme for employee share ownership may be fine and dandy for other firms, but for a family-owned business like ours it is frankly an irrelevance. The family members do not want to dilute their shareholding.

"Profit-related pay works very well — I can set a base profit level above which profit-related pay kicked in, ensuring most staff benefit. The tax advantages also work well for the company. I know that the Treasury has encountered tax avoidance problems with some firms, but I wish the Budget had addressed these issues."



Cornthwaite: keep status quo

□ *Any company wishing to express a view in Megaphone should contact In Business.*

# Share incentive scheme 'unworkable'

## Budget plans will act as spur to take companies private, writes Susan Emmett

Government plans for a new scheme to help small but growing enterprises to attract high-calibre managers from larger companies have been condemned as a "complete waste of space" by a City expert.

Under the new Enterprise Management Incentive (EMI) scheme announced as part of the Budget proposals to encourage enterprise, small companies will be able to reward risk-takers leaving secure jobs with up to £100,000 in shares.

However, the scheme, targeted at firms with gross assets of £15 million or less, excludes quoted companies, which some argue could lead to a reduction in the number of smaller quoted companies. As a further restriction, unquoted companies that could qualify for the incentive are prevented from floating for three years after taking up the scheme.

Michael Jacobs, chairman of Cisco, the City group for smaller quoted companies, said: "The EMI is regarded by many in the City as a complete waste of time. Smaller quoted companies have suffered badly since pension funds started withdrawing their investment. This scheme will act as a further incentive to take companies private."

The scheme was also criticised by Malcolm Hurlston, chairman of the Employee Share Ownership Centre, for providing no incentive to an average smaller company. Mr Hurlston said: "It is particularly designed for high-tech, fast-growing firms whose value is going up fast. If you are working for a fairly run-of-the-mill smaller business, then the scheme is of little benefit."

Mr Hurlston added that the other share incentive, all-employee schemes announced by Gordon Brown in the Budget, was not enough to entice bosses at smaller companies to offer the scheme and did not help small companies because there was no market for their shares. Under the new all-employee share scheme aimed at boosting the number of workers holding a stake in their own companies, employees can buy shares out of their pre-tax pay.

However, Marc Lucas, managing director of Lucas Software Solutions, was quick to dismiss the proposals. Mr Lucas, whose company employs a core of six people, said: "We would have to be a pretty sizeable business before offering anything like this. It's a paperwork nightmare. The administrative burden would be enormous. Whoever dreamt up this idea has obviously never run a company."

# How Britain can profit from American model

## Inspiration for the small firms body came from Washington, says Henrietta Lake

The Small Business Service (SBS) announced by Gordon Brown last week could have the power to answer many of the pleas of Britain's growing firms.

It aims to provide co-ordinated support for small and medium-sized companies across government departments and represent their needs at the heart of policy-making. Over the next few months a consultation process with business will take place to decide the structure, role and operation of the SBS. Some £100 million has already been set aside for the project and it could be up and running by the autumn.

The Government has also been looking for inspiration outside the UK. Last month a group of civil servants went to Washington to visit the headquarters of the Small Business Administration and apparently returned impressed. It is likely that many of the functions of the British Small Business Service will be modelled on the SBA in the US, which was set up in 1953 to champion America's entrepreneurs.

The SBA acts as the advocate of small business at local, state and federal government level, provides support services and provides primary source of funding for small firms. In 1997 the SBA acted as a guarantor for $29 billion (£18 billion) worth of loans, directly lent $10.9 billion and invested $2.37 billion through its venture capital programme to small businesses.



Philip Lader says the SBA example could be copied in the UK

Before becoming the American Ambassador to Great Britain in 1997, Philip Lader was head of the Small Business Administration. He told *The Times*: "In the US and probably globally, the primary challenge for small business is access to capital.

"That is why in America the variety of funding tools from the loan guarantees and venture capital to micro-loans is essential to the success of the SBA. The Government can play a big role but cannot do it by itself. It is all about good public-private partnerships. The SBA relies on the banks and will act as a guarantor or partly fund a venture with the private sector."

The SBA relies on help not only from the banks but other professionals such as lawyers and 13,000 retired executives.

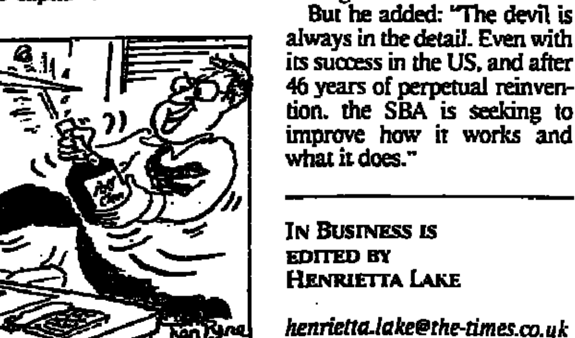
But observers are aware that cutting red tape is a particular concern of British businesses, and that the SBS needs to be given real power. American small firms receive far greater regulatory exemptions. The SBA not only reports to the President directly, but a representative sits on the influential National Economic Council, giving it a say at the highest level of policymaking. The SBS will report to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

Mr Lader believes that it is the SBA's financing and support services which "would get the highest marks from US businesses". He added: "We already have very strong business lobby groups in the States and, in fact, it was the National Federation of Independent Business which brought down much of President Clinton's healthcare initiative."

However, he said that in the mission to cut red tape, the SBA could play a role and should lead by example.

Mr Lader said: "Anyone who has seen what the SBA has done for the remarkable record of job creation in the US over the past six years would enthusiastically commend the initiatives in the UK to assist small and medium-sized growth firms."

But he added: "The devil is always in the detail. Even with its success in the US, and after 46 years of perpetual reinvention, the SBA is seeking to improve how it works and what it does."



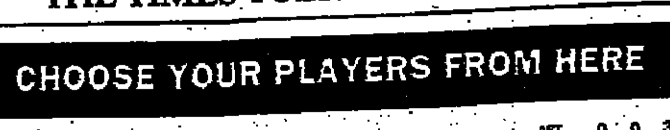


In Business is edited by Henrietta Lake

*henrietta.lake@the-times.co.uk*









Robbie Fowler's two goals for Liverpool on Saturday may have been in vain but those who included him in their Fantasy League teams were delighted with the six points

# Double helping of points available for far-sighted

It has been a busy week in the FA Carling Premiership and, hence, in *The Times* Fantasy League. Midweek victories for Arsenal, Derby County and Leeds United were followed up by further wins on Saturday, with the defenders in the Arsenal and Leeds sides repelling all-comers and earning six points for any Fantasy League entrant with the judgment to have selected them.

Dennis Bergkamp, with two goals against Sheffield Wednesday at Highbury a week ago and a penalty at Everton on Saturday, was the week's top scorer and would be the obvious candidate for our player of the week award but for the fact that he has already received the title, and we prefer to share it around.

There were plenty of other candidates. Derby County enjoyed two wins at Pride Park, over Aston Villa and Liverpool, and although neither opponent represents a formidable barrier these days, the goalscoring of Paulo Wanchope, the Costa Rican, and "Neon" Deon Burton, of Jamaica, together with the midfield creativity of Francesco Baiano, of Italy, deserved consideration.

The Leeds United defenders have kept out Tottenham and Sheffield Wednesday over the past six days, and are part of a team which is being taken increasingly seriously as contenders for one of the three places on offer for the European Champions' League. In front of Nigel Martyn, the goalkeeper, Lucas Radebe, Ian Harte, Jonathan Woodgate and the others have all enhanced their reputations and, it is worth pointing out, gained six Fantasy League points each.

A player does not, however, have to be part of a successful team to earn points. Take Dougie Freedman, for instance. The Nottingham Forest forward, who has also played for Barnet, Crystal Palace and Wolves, scored Forest's consolation goal in the 2-1 home defeat by Newcastle United on Wednesday, and was also on target in his team's unexpected victory over Wimbledon at Selhurst Park on Saturday. With Wimbledon pressing for an equaliser, Freedman swept the ball out to Matthieu Louis-Jean on the right, and charged upfield in time to accept the full back's forward pass, move clear of the last defender and lob the ball over the advancing goalkeeper, Neil Sullivan.

Another relatively unheralded player who added six points to his Fantasy League total this week was Steve Vickers, the Middlesbrough central defender. An established figure on Teesside, he has played alongside a series of defensive partners, including Gianluca Festa and, most recently, Gary Pallister, but seldom takes the spotlight himself. A goal on Sunday in the 3-0 win over Southampton gave him a rare chance to grab some attention.

Which of these deserving cases gets our award? The answer appears opposite.

☐ Even if your team's performance does not put you in the running for the award of £500 for the team of the week, you still have a chance to collect an equally valuable prize if your team total matches the ON-Target numbers printed opposite. Follow the instructions for a chance to win this week's ON-Target prize.

☐ For legal reasons, *The Times* - Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 years and younger who are already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.





## As I was saying

You know they always say about one-sided matches that if it was a boxing match they would have stopped it?

**I am aware of the saying.**

Well, I was thinking after the Holyfield against Lewis fight that it might be interesting if we judge games the way they do in the Noble Art.

**Do you envisage someone like David Elleray putting his arms around Paul Jones, the Southampton goalkeeper, and deciding that he shouldn't take any more punishment, then?**

I don't think that would work. For example, the referee at Selhurst on Saturday would have given the game to Wimbledon after five or six minutes in that case, and in fact Forest went on to win. Plus I don't think spectators would really like paying out for only a few minutes of action.

**Although we've both seen games where two or three minutes of action were spread out over 90 minutes?**

Good point. But it wasn't so much referees stopping matches as the idea that if there are no goals scored, then a panel of observers could decide who wins.

**I can certainly imagine that your plan would add some spice. Instead of drifting away after an inconclusive result, the crowd could stay on and cheer the announcement by the judges.**

But you'd have to think carefully about who those judges would be.

**The referee and his assistants, surely?**

No, they've got enough to think about, waving flags and coloured cards around. Some observers in the stand, perhaps.

**One home, one away and one neutral, I suppose?**

That's the way I see it. So for, say, Arsenal against Chelsea you could have Clive Anderson as the home judge, David Mellor as the away judge and ...

**Alan Hansen as the neutral?**

That could be difficult. The result could affect Liverpool's position, so his neutrality could be called into question.

**But everyone supports someone. And you couldn't allow anyone with a Fantasy League team to be a judge, could you, in case they needed one of their players to keep a clean sheet and the decision spoilt it?**

Well, they'd still keep the clean sheet points, wouldn't they?

**But you can't keep a clean sheet and lose, can you? It's not logical.**

After Lewis and Holyfield, logic doesn't come into it.



## PRIZES

- **£50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the European Cup final**
- **£10,000 to the runner-up**
- **£5,000 for third place**
- **£1,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment**
- **£500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports equipment**
- **£1,000 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt**
- **£500 weekly On-Target prize**

## HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards.

**TO ENTER BY POST** Name your team on the entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or RoI) or your credit-card details. You will get confirmation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League.

**LUCKY DIP** If you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Postal entries only.

**TO ENTER BY PHONE** Call 0640 67 88 99 (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the UK are charged at national rates. Calls from payphones cost approximately double.

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Promoter: News Promotions Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XY

## FANTASY LEAGUE SERVICES

Use these numbers for all the information you need:

**CHECKLINE**
To check your team's standing
**0640 625 102**
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4292)

**TRANSFER LINE**
To alter your team
**0640 625 103**
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4293)
0640 calls cost 60p per minute (ex UK numbers charge at national rates)

**FAXBACK**
A comprehensive update sheet
**0991 123 720**
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4280)

**SUPER LEAGUE FAXBACK**
A brand new service
**0991 123 721**
(ex-UK +44 870 901 4279)
Faxbacks cost £1 per minute (ex UK numbers charged at national rates)

**HELPLINE**
for any queries
**01582 702720**

## THE TIMES MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

Submit your entry as soon as possible to maximise your point-scoring opportunities

FANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 16 characters)

LUCKY DIP If you wish to have your team selected by us at random, tick box ☐

| CODE | | CLUB | VALUE |
|---|---|---|---|
| | GOALKEEPER NAME | | £ m |
| | FULL-BACK NAME | | £ m |
| | FULL-BACK NAME | | £ m |
| | CENTRE-BACK NAME | | £ m |
| | CENTRE-BACK NAME | | £ m |
| | MIDFIELDER NAME | | £ m |
| | MIDFIELDER NAME | | £ m |
| | MIDFIELDER NAME | | £ m |
| | MIDFIELDER NAME | | £ m |
| | FORWARD NAME | | £ m |
| | FORWARD NAME | | £ m |

MAXIMUM OF ONE PLAYER PER PREMIERSHIP TEAM — TOTAL VALUE (MAX £50m) £

I also wish to enter the Youth League (please tick) ☐

I was under 18 on August 15, 1998. Date of birth

First Name ____ Surname ____

Address ____

Postcode ____ Daytime tel ____

Cheque/PO no (payable to: Times Newspapers Ltd) ____

Credit card number: ____ Expiry date: ____

MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card ____

Supply address of registered cardholder on separate sheet if different from above. Signature ____

Send with £2.50 entry fee (£10 sterling for entrants outside the UK or RoI) to: The Times Fantasy League, Abacus House, Dudley St, Luton, Beds LU1 1ZZ

1. On which days do you usually buy The Times? ☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times

2. Which other national daily newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?

3. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?

4. Which Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?

If you do not wish to receive other offers from Times Newspapers Limited, please tick box ☐

## CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code; name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation(m).

**GOALKEEPERS**

| Code | Name | Club | Weekly | Total | Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 102 | D Seaman | ARS | 6 | 34 | 3.7 |
| 146 | A Manninger | ARS | 0 | 12 | 3.4 |
| 139 | M Bosnich | AST | -1 | 11 | 3.2 |
| 140 | M Oakes | AST | 0 | 1 | 2.9 |
| 144 | A Rachel | AST | 0 | -1 | 2.6 |
| 108 | J Filan | BLA | -1 | -7 | 2.8 |
| 126 | A Fettis | BLA | 0 | 6 | 2.5 |
| 127 | T Flowers | BLA | 0 | -3 | 3.1 |
| 104 | S Ilic | CHA | 0 | -11 | 2.3 |
| 105 | M Salmon | CHA | 0 | 0 | 2.2 |
| 106 | A Petterson | CHA | 0 | -1 | 2.2 |
| 134 | S Royce | CHA | 0 | 10 | 2.2 |
| 137 | D Kharine | CHE | 0 | 0 | 2.9 |
| 138 | E De Goey | CHE | 0 | 28 | 3.2 |
| 107 | S Ogrizovic | COV | 0 | -1 | 2.4 |
| 117 | M Hedman | COV | 0 | -3 | 2.6 |
| 103 | R Hoult | DER | -1 | -4 | 2.3 |
| 159 | M Poom | DER | 0 | 9 | 2.5 |
| 112 | P Gerrard | EVE | 0 | 0 | 2.4 |
| 114 | S Simonsen | EVE | 0 | 0 | 2.7 |
| 118 | T Myhre | EVE | -1 | 19 | 2.6 |
| 113 | N Martyn | LEE | 6 | 20 | 3.1 |
| 125 | P Robinson | LEE | 0 | 4 | 2.7 |
| 123 | K Keller | LEI | 0 | 5 | 2.9 |
| 124 | P Arphexad | LEI | 0 | 1 | 2.6 |
| 122 | B Friedel | LIV | 0 | -1 | 3.3 |
| 131 | D James | LIV | -2 | 3 | 3.3 |
| 116 | P Schmeichel | MAN | 0 | 14 | 4.0 |
| 121 | R Van Der Gouw | MAN | 1 | 4 | 3.5 |
| 109 | M Schwarzer | MID | 3 | 11 | 2.7 |
| 110 | B Roberts | MID | 0 | 0 | 2.4 |
| 111 | M Beresford | MID | 0 | -8 | 2.5 |
| 141 | S Given | NEW | -1 | 9 | 3.0 |
| 142 | L Perez | NEW | 0 | 0 | 2.7 |
| 143 | S Harper | NEW | 0 | 2 | 2.5 |
| 119 | D Beasant | NOT | 0 | -24 | 2.7 |
| 120 | M Crossley | NOT | 1 | 4 | 2.6 |
| 136 | K Pressman | SHE | 0 | 7 | 2.5 |
| 149 | M Clarke | SHE | 0 | 0 | 2.2 |
| 150 | P Srnicek | SHE | -3 | 5 | 2.3 |

# Marvellous Martyn calls the shots

## With two clean sheets in the space of four days last week, the Leeds goalkeeper lent a helping hand to this week's winner

Cornwall is not generally known as a hotbed of soccer talent. Nevertheless, Great Britain's south-westernmost county has made at least one important contribution to the England national squad and the quality of the FA Carling Premiership. Nigel Martyn, a son of St Austell, and the goalkeeper of Leeds United and England, has been so consistent that, these days, strikers are having to produce the very best in order to get the ball past him.

Remember the Tottenham Hotspur versus Leeds Worthington Cup replay at White Hart Lane? Martyn's outstretched fingertips, ably assisted by the inside of an upright, denied David Ginola what would unquestionably have been the goal of the season, and only goals by Darren Anderton and Ginola, which themselves were both strong candidates for the annual title, could beat him.

David O'Leary, the Leeds manager, is at pains to dismiss any talk of his team of promising young talents becoming contenders for a place in the European Champions' League ("Overachievers" was his verdict on the team after their league victory over Tottenham last Wednesday), but he can have no doubts about the quality of the experienced Martyn, his last line of defence, who is pushing David Seaman hard for the England goalkeeper's jersey.

He began his professional career in the West Country (although it probably seemed like the North East to him) at Bristol Rovers, before moving to Crystal Palace for £1 million in late 1989. A further £2,250,000 was required to take him to Elland Road in the summer of 1996.

This season he is threatening to improve on the outstanding form he showed during his first season at Leeds (1996-97), when he kept 19 clean sheets in 37 games, although the way the defenders in front of him have been playing recently, he can probably afford to take the occasional breather and still not risk conceding a goal.

With their comfortable victory over Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on Saturday, Leeds have now notched five successive wins, and kept the opposition out twice in the past six days, moving assuredly into fourth place, two points behind Chelsea, and earning any Fantasy League entrants with Martyn in their sides a useful six points, with plenty more, one feels, to come.

Martyn is the goalkeeper in this week's £500 prize-winning team. The




THE LONE GUNMEN

| Player | Points |
|---|---|
| N Martyn (LEE) | 6 |
| J Kenna (BLA) | 0 |
| D Gordon (MID) | 3 |
| S Campbell (TOT) | 2 |
| R Ferdinand (WES) | 3 |
| A Thompson (AST) | 3 |
| S Eranio (DER) | 2 |
| T Ketsbaia (NEW) | 0 |
| M Kennedy (WIM) | 0 |
| D Bergkamp (ARS) | 9 |
| A Cole (MAN) | 6 |

Total points: 34

Lone Gunmen, chosen by Jayne Dray, of Liphook, Hampshire, who supports Leeds as well as Wolves. An A-level student at Alton College, Ms Dray, who also plays the beautiful game, "when I get the chance," wins £100-worth of Puma sports equipment into the bargain.

Her defence also included Rio Ferdinand and Dean Gordon, who each contributed three points to the Gunmen, although Gordon could have done even better had a first-half shot in Middlesbrough's game against Southampton on Sunday found the net instead of the foot of a post.

Her star performers, though, were up front, Andy Cole and Dennis Bergkamp producing 15 of her team's total of 34 points. All the usual puns about Cole, goals and Newcastle were out in force on Sunday after the former St James' Park favourite came back to haunt his old club yet again with both of Manchester United's goals in their 2-1 win.

Bergkamp, with nine points earned by three goals in five days, has certainly shaken off the post-World Cup lethargy that seemed to afflict him in the early months of this season.

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK

MARC ASPLAND



Cornish cream: It is a long way from St Austell to Elland Road, especially via Bristol and South London, but PFA award winner and England squad regular Nigel Martyn has risen to the top. Two clean sheets for the Leeds United goalkeeper last week meant six Fantasy League points for our weekly winner

## FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

| Pos | Manager | Team | Points |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Phil Clarke | Shabadi United | 348 |
| 2 | James Kerr | Serious Squad | 332 |
| 3 | Sarabjot Kohli | Junglemen | 329 |
| 4 | Robert Little | Broken Arrow | 323 |
| 5 | Lucy Crosthwaite | I Hate Football | 319 |
| 6 | Mike Shipley | Minor Threat | 318 |
| 7 | Michael Matejtschuk | Bandidos Darsene | 315 |
| 8 | David Young | Dave 10 | 314 |
| 8 | Mark Coles | Joe Public | 314 |
| 8 | Phil Tusler | Peter 7 | 314 |
| 11 | David Edmondson | Edmo Utd Mington | 312 |
| 12 | Brian Payne | Cosmopolitan Iii | 311 |
| 12 | David Tilley | Tilley FC | 311 |
| 12 | David Wise | Walsall Reserves | 311 |
| 15 | Jason Wynne | Taffys Terrors | 310 |
| 16 | Kevin Styles | Olivianewtonjohn | 309 |
| 16 | Mark Gayler | Third Time Lucky | 309 |
| 16 | Jennifer Cockburn | Yeah Right! | 309 |
| 16 | John Lofthouse | Solid At The Bac | 309 |
| 16 | Phil Tusler | Pin-Ups 7 | 309 |
| 21 | Matthew O'Neil | The M Team | 308 |
| 22 | John Humphreys | Academicals | 307 |
| 22 | Tim Gardner | Harchester Who? | 307 |
| 22 | John White | Fusegear | 307 |
| 25 | Darren Sawyer | Finchleyallstars | 306 |
| 25 | Robin Harrington | Chequers Champs | 306 |
| 25 | Robert Anderson | Robert's Rovers | 306 |
| 25 | Peter Leathem | Spike Town | 306 |
| 29 | Colin Head | Headstart Gunerd | 305 |
| 29 | Carol Flint | The Baggage Boys | 305 |
| 31 | Alan Featherstone | Larlarsdipsyteam | 304 |
| 31 | Allan Purdy | Als Bandits | 304 |
| 31 | David Mead | In The City | 304 |
| 34 | Nicholas Keighley | These Eat Beans | 303 |
| 34 | Mike Shipley | Minor Threat 15 | 303 |
| 34 | Michael Scaife | Allidoiswash&go | 303 |
| 37 | Gordon Crutchley | Super Saddlers B | 302 |
| 37 | Richard Deane | On The Wagon | 302 |
| 37 | Tom Summers | Ganichou | 302 |
| 40 | Philip Morton | Skill Venill | 301 |
| 40 | Sarosh Daruwala | Scorch | 301 |
| 40 | Andrew James Spencer | This Ones Mine | 301 |
| 40 | Paul O'Neill | Four Four Two | 301 |
| 40 | Stephen Trup | Winners | 301 |
| 40 | Tony Fidler | Real Dataman | 301 |
| 40 | Neil Bradbrook | Chapeltown Elite | 301 |
| 40 | Jwalant Popat | Popat's Army | 301 |
| 48 | Andy Georgia | Misty's Magic Te | 300 |
| 48 | Don Baxter | Don's Diamonds | 300 |
| 48 | Henrietta Ball | Henri & Goals UU | 300 |
| 48 | John Miner | Melodymaker | 300 |
| 52 | Henry Cosgrove | Top Class Reject | 299 |
| 52 | John Green | Chicken Chasers | 299 |
| 52 | Scott Brett | Scotts Stars | 299 |
| 52 | Jackie Harris | Haagendazsmmmmmm | 299 |
| 56 | Ron Allport | Cyclones | 298 |
| 56 | C Sharpe | Sunfish Stars | 298 |
| 56 | Simon Lowe | Janices Heroes | 298 |
| 56 | Angela Whitfield | Westcountry Woo5 | 298 |
| 56 | Stephen Taylor | Trolly Dolly's | 298 |
| 61 | Thomas Bailey | Rural Raiders | 297 |
| 61 | Tim McNab | He B G Bees | 297 |
| 61 | Peter Donnelly | Goals 'R Us | 297 |
| 61 | Mike Truran | Tigger United | 297 |
| 61 | L Samuels | Spartak Mossley | 297 |
| 66 | Steven Walls | Team Stevo | 296 |
| 66 | Anil Nathan | Nathan Hotspurs | 296 |
| 66 | Miles Ambler | Mil Stars | 296 |
| 66 | Jo Timing-Clowes | The Future's Red | 296 |
| 66 | Iain Anderson | The Odd Squad | 296 |
| 71 | Andrew Colyer | Splitters | 295 |
| 71 | Stuart Rutter | Spitonthevilla | 295 |
| 71 | Chris Wallis | Wallys Wonders 2 | 295 |
| 71 | Tom Lee | The Bears FC | 295 |
| 71 | Nathan Carroll | Nath's Champs | 295 |
| 71 | Bradley Woodbridge | The Business | 295 |
| 71 | Tony Murnaghan | Destiny | 295 |
| 71 | Terry Bullen | Dion Dion Dion | 295 |
| 71 | David Daley | The Daley X1 | 295 |
| 80 | Mandy Adamson | Man(dy) United | 294 |
| 80 | Raymond George | Razor D | 294 |
| 80 | Geoff Clarke | Clarkies Kickers | 294 |
| 80 | Lionel Payne | Lkpayneandsonfc1 | 294 |
| 80 | Philip Hill | Poshes Babies | 294 |
| 80 | Terry Bullen | El Tel's Revenge | 294 |
| 80 | John Tobin | Dream Team | 294 |
| 80 | Nigel Kalb | Kalbs Kings 8 | 294 |
| 88 | Nigel Kalbe | The Adams Family | 293 |
| 88 | Des Conway | Keteandsamunited | 293 |
| 88 | Arthur Gaunt | Harrogate Eleven | 293 |
| 88 | Chris Coles | Inter Radicchio | 293 |
| 88 | Mike Shipley | Minus Threat 10 | 293 |
| 88 | James Walsh | Tigers Argyle | 293 |
| 88 | Chris Barwick | Owen Shmowen | 293 |
| 88 | Nigel Byrne | Nigels Team | 293 |
| 96 | Christopher Vanezis | Aladin's Army | 292 |
| 96 | Tony Green | Big Bad Mols 11 | 292 |
| 96 | Joseph Barkley | Joren United | 292 |
| 96 | Karen Lee | Homer's Heroes | 292 |
| 96 | J Prinsell | Grand Pan Pizza | 292 |
| 96 | Andy Luckhurst | Caroline B. | 292 |
| 96 | Steve Wootten | Wootten's Winners | 292 |
| 96 | James Muir | James Muirauders | 292 |
| 96 | Matthew Watson | Matts Magic | 292 |
| 96 | John Young | Noteamname | 292 |
| 96 | Dominic Quibell | Doms Demons | 292 |

# With another 15 prizes to be won, it's time to give it a try

## If your Fantasy League team is struggling, don't despair, there is consolation to be found by checking if you're ON-Target

Congratulations to Dave Osbourne, of Minehead, the main winner of ON-Target this week, who finds himself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen others also managed to win excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. *The Times* has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned *Fifa 99* game. Every week you have the chance to win:

- 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
- 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
- 10 additional runners up: Fifa 99 CD-Rom.

IF YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes.

The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week. Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on:

**0870 901 4270**

If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on **0870 901 4270** (calls, charged at national rate, should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won. Managers with the correct points who have *not* called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS: Dave Osbourne, of Minehead (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); Greg Ellis, of Manchester, David Hayden, of Cardiff, Darren Cail, of Feltham, Jenny Kimber, of Blaydon-on-Tyne (EA Sports Packs). George Handley, of Leeds, Joan Alexander, of Henley-on-Thames, Gerrard Coleman, of Lanchester, Mick Trovell, of Saxmundham, Claire Dunn, of Nottingham, Robin Frost, of Steyning, Chris Dobs, of Worcester, Camilla Begg, of Cranbrook, Roger Gilson, of Watford, David Craggs, of Southampton (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).

THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE

**Has your team scored . . .**

**5 or 10 or 15**

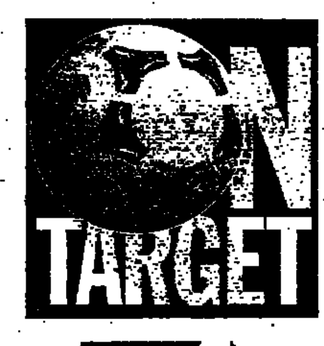
**points?**

**Check your total, then ring**

**0870 901 4270**

**(ex UK +44 870 901 4270)**

**Calls charged at national rates**







## FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ





The Fantasy League quiz gives you the chance to test your football knowledge. Two weeks ago we showed you four players who have bettered themselves this season in terms of league position, although they remain registered, for Fantasy League purposes, with their original clubs: Tim Sherwood (now Tottenham Hotspur), Steve Watson (Aston Villa), Dwight Yorke (Manchester United) and Paolo Di Canio (West Ham United).

**What have this week's four (and only these four) in common?**

**CHECK YOUR SCORES**
**TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02**

## YOUTH LEAGUE TOP 25

| Pos | Manager | Team | Points |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sarabjot Kohli | Junglemen | 329 |
| 2 | Matthew O'Neil | The M Team | 308 |
| 3 | Robert Anderson | Robert's Rovers | 306 |
| 4 | Tom Summers | Ganichou | 302 |
| 5 | Jwalant Popat | Popat's Army | 301 |
| 6 | Henrietta Ball | Henri & Goals UU | 300 |
| 7 | Stuart Rutter | Spitonthevilla | 295 |
| 8 | Matthew Watson | Matts Magic | 292 |
| 8 | John Young | Noteamname | 292 |
| 10 | Claire Barber | Super Spurs | 291 |
| 11 | James Griffiths | Griffs Eleven | 289 |
| 12 | David Swithenbank | Titus All Stars | 287 |
| 13 | Daniel Lewis | It's A Puppet! | 285 |
| 13 | Steven Wynne | Universe Stars | 285 |
| 15 | Graham Booth | Manchester City | 284 |
| 15 | Alexander Thackray-Norris | Finchmeadrovers | 284 |
| 17 | Matthew Giles | Rowstock Rovers | 281 |
| 17 | Jacob Bonehill | Satans Spawn | 281 |
| 19 | Dawn Marshallsay | The Speedy Cats | 280 |
| 19 | Jonathan Read | Legion Of Doom | 280 |
| 19 | Kevin Ross | Super Kevin's | 280 |
| 22 | Adam Thayers | FC Flash Bv B09 | 279 |
| 22 | Daisy Martin | Saxham Tuesdays | 279 |
| 24 | Steven Williams | Stevie's Wonders | 277 |
| 24 | Paul Williams | Where Was Gazza | 277 |

# Late bloomers spring into action

Now that we're coming to the final few furlongs of The Times Fantasy League, you can be sure that the contenders for European places and the relegation strugglers will step up their form. It's always worth backing a struggling side over a mid-table side who have nothing left to play for, and this should certainly be considered by Fantasy League managers, too.

Nottingham Forest upset Wimbledon at the weekend to stay in with a chance of staying in the Premiership next year; expect further shock results.

In Fantasy League there is indeed the phenomenon of "spring specialists" — those players who start to produce their goods once the daffodils of spring start blooming. Despite failing to keep Bolton in the Premiership last season, Alan Thompson was at the heart of everything that the Trotters did during this time and scored a mighty impressive 30 points after March 1. This season it could be Matt Le Tissier, of Southampton, Jason Wilcox, of Blackburn, Mark Kinsella, of Charlton, or Nick Barmby, of Everton, who hit form when it matters.

**Matt Sims**

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## NEWS

### Resign call to Santer and his team

■ Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission, was under pressure to resign with members of his team last night after outside inspectors released a report that concluded that he had effectively lost control of the Brussels executive. MEPs of most political camps urged Mr Santer to take full responsibility for an epidemic of fraud, irregularities, cronyism and mismanagement............Pages 1, 13

### Car bomb threatens peace process

■ The car-bomb murder of a leading nationalist lawyer plunged Northern Ireland's peace process into deep crisis yesterday, and last night rioting erupted near the scene of the explosion in Lurgan, County Armagh. Rosemary Nelson's killing makes it almost inconceivable that the IRA will agree to begin disarming before Good Friday's deadline............Pages 1, 2

### Muslim cleric arrested

The radical Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza al Masri, was being questioned last night by anti terrorist squad officers after being arrested in a dawn raid at his West London home............Page 1

### Straw acts on Bulger

Jack Straw is to set a new minimum jail term for the boys convicted of murdering James Bulger despite a ruling by the European Commission of Human Rights that they did not receive a fair trial............Pages 1, 4

### Woman, 85, 'starved'

A doctor who ordered nursing home staff to starve an 85-year-old woman and to let her "slip away" was accused of serious professional misconduct............Page 3

### Lewis draw 'mistake'

The British judge who awarded the draw that denied Lennox Lewis the world heavyweight boxing title said he made an "honest mistake"............Page 5

### Prescott defends trip

John Prescott returns to his ministerial desk today after completing a gruelling visit to India and the Maldive Islands............Page 6

### Classics entry test

The next generation of Oxford classicists is entering university without knowing Latin or Greek. Their aptitude to learn is judged by their ability to make sense of an invented language............Page 8

### Prince and penguins

The Prince of Wales, on his official visit to the South Atlantic, briefly escaped the politics of sovereignty during a tour of Sea Lion Island............Page 9

### Archer's milk pledge

Milk took centre stage in the race to become London's mayor as Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare vowed to give free cartons to children............Page 10

### China talks tough

China, displaying an unyielding stance on human rights, warned Western governments not to support Chinese dissidents living in exile............Page 11

### Kosovo turning point

The ethnic Albanian delegation to the resumed Kosovo peace talks handed in a letter saying they would sign up to the Contact Group's autonomy plan for the province............Page 12

### Last Supper uproar

The Italian Culture Minister stepped into a mounting controversy over the restoration of Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper*, now in its final stages............Page 13

### Israeli water crisis

Israeli-Jordanian relations were plunged into their first crisis since the accession of King Abdullah II after Israel said it could no longer meet its commitment to provide its Arab neighbour with the set amount of water............Page 14

### Roman tomb reveals secrets of old

The tomb of one of the richest and most powerful people in Roman London began to reveal its secrets yesterday after 1,800 years, but the identity of the VIP remained unknown. Archaeologists opened up a stone sarcophagus, which was discovered in the City of London on Friday on a site destined to become an office complex............Page 7



RICHARD CANNON

Mary-Ann Gallacher soaked up the sunshine yesterday as the temperature climbed to 16C (61F). Warm weather is expected until the weekend

**Cable crash:** Shares of Cable & Wireless lost almost 10 per cent of their value after the telecom company's biggest shareholder sold its stake at a discount to the market price............Page 27

**Eurotunnel worries:** Eurotunnel fears that price rises caused by the controversial abolition of duty free could result in a decline in the number of passengers............Page 27

**Euro mortgage:** The Nationwide Building Society is launching the UK's first mortgage denominated in sterling but linked to European interest rates............Page 27

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 index fell 75.4 to 6206.8. The pound fell 1.22 cents to \$1.6216 and .51p to 67.49p against the euro. The sterling index fell to 102.3 from 103.1............Page 30

**Boxing:** Lennox Lewis may have to go through meaningless contests to acquire the three belts that will give him the title of undisputed world heavyweight champion............Page 52

**Football:** The extent of the obsession with Ronaldo's fitness became apparent when television stations flew into a panic because the young star had missed training with a headache............Page 52

**Rugby union:** Gary Armstrong has recovered from an elbow injury and returns as captain of the Scotland team against Ireland this weekend............Page 45

**Racing:** There is a growing conviction that Ireland could achieve a record number of winners at the Cheltenham Festival. The record stands at seven............Page 52

**Mama Africa:** As Miriam Makeba prepares for a Festival Hall concert, she talks about exile from South Africa, and her role as a goodwill ambassador............Page 41

**Scotland the brave:** With the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in Edinburgh, Duncan McTier demonstrates again his complete mastery of the double bass in Robin Holloway's concerto............Page 41

**London theatre:** Greenwich Theatre unveils a noisy *Hamlet* that has been cut to ribbons, while Battersea Arts Centre stages an intriguing Gogol comedy............Page 42

**Big Screen USA:** In our weekly look at the American box office, Michelle Pfeiffer buries her delectable-doll image in *The Deep End of the Ocean*............Page 43

**Doctor's busy:** If you can't get in to see your GP, don't blame the NHS: blame the selfish patients who are clogging up surgeries............Page 16

**Medicine Chest:** Dr Thomas Stuttaford on thyroid disease............Page 16

**Memories:** *Evening*, Susan Minot's new novel, is about dying and death. It is not depressing but uplifting because it is about the richness of memory............Page 17

**Listings war:** Nothing in the whole nuptials shenanigans is as sensitive as the wedding list............Page 17

**Treasures:** The Antiques and Fine Arts Fair in the West End sets a high note for the season............Page 34

**Colour of justice:** Is the legal profession riddled with racism? The latest figures on ethnic minority representation seem to suggest so............Page 37

**Power loss:** Kevin Maxwell's contempt victory may mean an end to some of the Trade Department's draconian powers............Page 39

## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

■ **INTERFACE**
Going to the Oscars with the weekly technology supplement

■ **HOMES**
How housing should change to reflect the needs of ethnic communities

It's been noted that much of Western Europe is now governed by left-wing political parties, a sharp change from the Thatcher-Kohl days of yore. But it's not clear how left those left-wing parties really are. The British Prime Minister Tony Blair followed Mr Clinton's lead in steering his party away from its union base. Now Germany looks set to follow the same course.
*The Washington Post*

**Preview:** A portrait of the writer. *Close Up: Germaine Greer* (BBC2, 9.30pm) **Review:** Joe Joseph on the latest BBC1 fly-on-the-wall documentary *Jailbirds*............Pages 50, 51

### Sins of Commission

According to the yearly auditors' report, the European Commission's culture of cronyism has brought to the Commission some of the worst Spanish practices ... that have eroded public confidence in European Union institutions............Page 19

### Children in court

If the ruling on the Bulger case leaves a sour taste, it is because it seems almost to overlook the particular horror of the crime............Page 19

### Street fighting man

An MP's plan to combat traffic jams offers much-needed relief for drivers suffering from the irritation of blocked lanes............Page 19

### MATTHEW PARRIS

This was the chance for MPs to raise that morning's recommendation from the European Commission of Human Rights, on the James Bulger trial. Nobody mentioned it............Page 2

### PETER RIDDELL

William Hague has done something sensible. He has stopped digging himself further into a hole on Europe............Page 10

### LIBBY PURVES

The NSPCC launches its biggest campaign this evening ... the difficult bit is to reach right inside the darkness of the most dangerous families............Page 18

### MICHAEL GOVE

Do the Tories still believe they are so resented that their intervention in defence of unfairly vilified public servants would be as irritating as an unloved spouse's pouring of milk on the Cornflakes?............Page 18

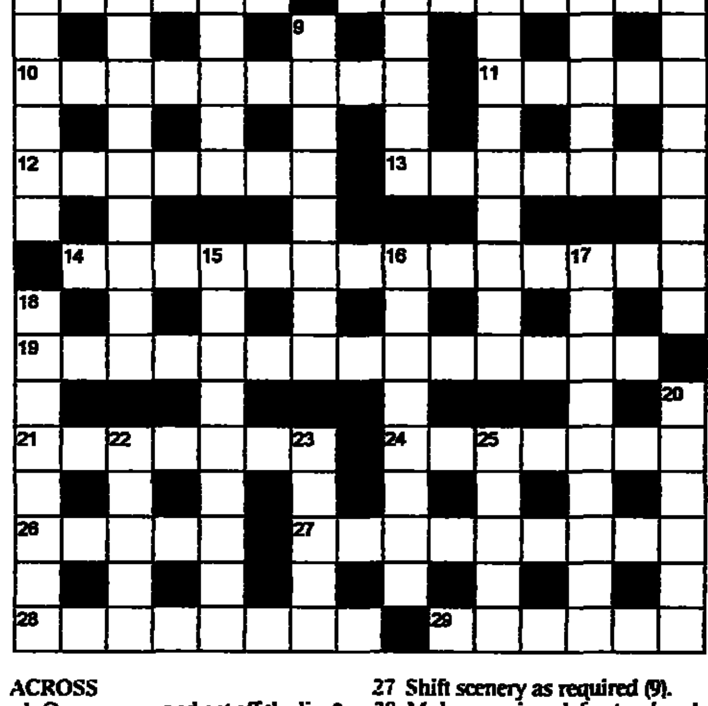
### ROGER SCRUTON

British justice has enjoyed the confidence not only of the British people but of the entire civilised world ... but all that is changing............Page 18

**Garson Kanin**, playwright; **Bidu Sayao**, opera singer; **Sir Peter Hope**, diplomat............Page 21

Budget reaction; Pilate's reputation; NSPCC advertising; British Library dispute............Page 19

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,052



**ACROSS**

1 Open an eye and get off the line? (6).
4 Drink that may lead to a smash (8).
10 Procrastinate when it 's *time* to get up (9).
11 A brief, for example, is for the defence (5).
12 The only thing an exhausted army can beat? (7).
13 Goes flat out arranging tenancies to rent (4,3).
14 Highlights of an Arctic cruise, perhaps? (6,8).
19 You should be switched on by this (8-2,4).
21 Notices faulty part (7).
24 In a group, coming from France (2,5).
26 Still to be paid nothing to fly (5).
27 Shift scenery as required (9).
28 Make a union defer tea break (8).
29 Like three articles in the wash (6).

**DOWN**

1 Recovery vessel – put out in it (6).
2 Having ruined hock, perhaps (9).
3 Individual put on a little weight – it's something in the air (5).
5 Perfect profession for an entrepreneur? (5).
6 Card woollen material that's genuine (9).
7 A special guru or prophet (5).
8 Final appointment that precedes military retirement (4,4).
9 Seize with force after I'd taken over (8).
15 It's extensively used by an oarsman (9).
16 Clue one composed about power and riches (8).
17 Hit oddly shaped cover on light (9).
18 Launching of report on cricket side (5-3).
20 Know about any transported from part of East Africa (6).
22 Infant learner told off, put outside (5).
23 Lack of practice for players in group (5).
25 Flight leader (5).

**Solution to Puzzle No 21,051**

```
TINLIZZIE OPTIC
U O N O B X R A
DIVINER BULLION
O E E O I P E
RULER AMORPHOUS
T M S R L U
COY OUTSTANDING
A S R H O A
MOUNTAINOUS MAR
E N A P T A
MEMORANDA ACRID
B O O E L C W
ENVIOUS DOGGONE
R E M I I N L
TODAY COCKATIEL
```

Times Two Crossword, page 52

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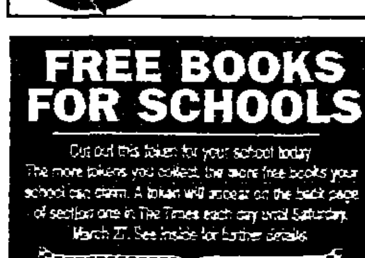
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## HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.13 am
Sun sets: 6.05 pm
Moon sets: 4.31 pm
Moon rises: 5.52 am

New moon tomorrow

London 6.05 pm to 6.11 am
Bristol 6.16 pm to 6.21 am
Edinburgh 6.17 pm to 6.24 am
Manchester 6.14 pm to 6.20 am
Penzance 6.28 pm to 6.33 am






☐ **General:** most places will have a dry, mild spring day with sunny spells. Northern and eastern England will start cloudy with drizzle, but will brighten up this afternoon. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have outbreaks of rain, continuing tonight. Elsewhere it will be dry tonight with a few mist and fog patches.

☐ **London, SE England, Midlands:** starting cloudy but becoming mild with sunny spells. Light, variable wind. Max 16C (61F)

☐ **Central S & SW England, Channel Islands, Wales:** dry, sunny spells after early fog. Light, variable wind. Max 13C (55F)

☐ **NW & Central N England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** cloudy morning, sunny breaks this afternoon. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 14C (57F)

☐ **E Anglia, E & NE England:** cloudy morning with drizzle breaking out, brightening up in afternoon. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 15C (59F)

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland:** mild, cloudy day with patchy rain and drizzle, dying out in afternoon. Moderate to fresh W/SW wind. Max 15C (59F)

☐ **SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll:** cloudy with rain easing in afternoon. Fresh to strong SW wind. Max 13C (55F)

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** mostly cloudy, intermittent rain. Fresh SW wind. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Northern Ireland:** cloudy morning, outbreaks of rain and drizzle. Afternoon drier and brighter. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 13C (55F)

☐ **Irish Republic:** cloudy start, brightening up later. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Max 14C (54F)

☐ **Outlook:** dry and mild with plenty of warm sunshine, though the North will turn cloudy, breezy and showery by Thursday.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

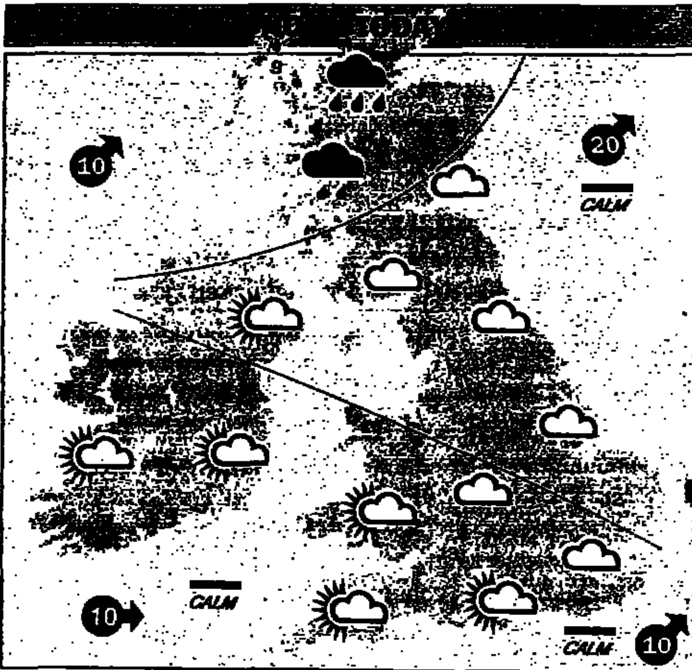
| | Sun hrs | Rain in | Max C | Max F | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 9.7 | - | 11 | 52 | s |
| Anglesey | 8.0 | - | 10 | 50 | s |
| Aspatria | 7.6 | 0.01 | 10 | 50 | s |
| Aviemore | 6.6 | 0.03 | 9 | 48 | s |
| Belfast | 4.9 | 0.01 | 10 | 50 | s |
| Birmingham | 7.0 | - | 12 | 54 | s |
| Bognor R | 10.7 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Bournemth | 10.3 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Bristol | 10.1 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Buxton | 7.1 | - | 10 | 50 | s |
| Cardiff | 7.3 | - | 14 | 57 | s |
| Clacton | 10.0 | - | 12 | 54 | s |
| Cleethorpes | 8.5 | 0.01 | 14 | 57 | s |
| Colwyn Bay | 6.2 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Cromer | 10.1 | - | 11 | 52 | s |
| Edinburgh | 8.9 | 0.01 | 12 | 54 | s |
| Eskdalemuir | 6.6 | 0.01 | 10 | 50 | s |
| Exmouth | 7.5 | - | 11 | 52 | s |
| Fishguard | 3.3 | - | 11 | 52 | b |
| Folkestone | 10.7 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Glasgow | 5.8 | 0.02 | 11 | 52 | b |
| Guernsey | 9.2 | 0.01 | 14 | 57 | s |
| Hastings | 10.0 | - | 12 | 54 | s |
| Hayling I. | 9.9 | 0.01 | 11 | 52 | s |
| Herne Bay | 9.6 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Hove | 6.2 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Hunstanton | 9.7 | - | 12 | 54 | s |
| Isle of Man | 8.0 | 0.01 | 10 | 50 | s |
| Isle of Wight | X | 0.01 | 13 | 55 | s |
| Jersey | 10.3 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Kinloss | 7.7 | 0.01 | 11 | 52 | s |
| Leeds | 6.2 | 0.01 | 12 | 54 | sh |
| Lerwick | 8.4 | - | 8 | 46 | s |
| Leuchars | 6.7 | 0.01 | 11 | 52 | s |
| Littlehampton | 9.9 | 0.01 | 13 | 55 | s |
| London | 9.9 | - | 14 | 57 | s |
| Lowestoft | 9.4 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Manchester | 5.5 | 0.01 | 11 | 52 | s |
| Margate | 10.1 | - | 12 | 54 | s |
| Morecambe | 7.5 | - | 10 | 50 | s |
| Newcastle | 8.0 | - | 11 | 52 | s |
| Newquay | 4.0 | - | 11 | 52 | s |
| Norwich | 9.3 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Oxford | 8.6 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Penzance | 6.5 | - | 14 | 57 | s |
| Poole | 8.7 | 0.01 | 15 | 59 | s |
| Prestatyn | 3.7 | - | 11 | 52 | b |
| Ross on Wye | 5.1 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Saunton Sands | 9.1 | - | 14 | 57 | s |
| Scarborough | 6.3 | 0.01 | 11 | 52 | s |
| Shrewsbury | 5.8 | 0.01 | 12 | 54 | sh |
| Skegness | 9.5 | - | 13 | 55 | s |
| Southend | 9.5 | 0.02 | 13 | 55 | b |
| Stornoway | 6.6 | 0.17 | 10 | 50 | sh |
| Swanage | 9.5 | 0.01 | 12 | 54 | s |
| Teignmouth | 7.2 | - | 12 | 54 | s |
| Tenby | 8.8 | - | 12 | 54 | s |
| Tiree | 6.2 | 0.51 | 10 | 50 | s |
| Torquay | 8.3 | - | 14 | 57 | s |
| Weymouth | 10.0 | - | 11 | 52 | s |

Highest day temp: London Weather Centre 16C (61F), lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 8C (46F), highest rainfall: Lusta, Isle of Skye, 1.83 inches; highest sunshine: Bognor Regis, West Sussex, 10.6 hours

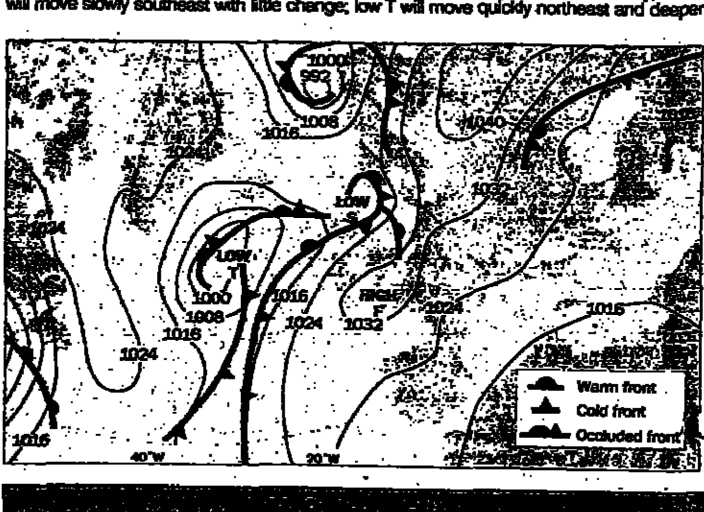
## ABROAD

| | C | F | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ajaccio | 15 | 61 | s |
| Akrotiri | 19 | 66 | s |
| Alex'dria | 20 | 68 | s |
| Algiers | 18 | 64 | f |
| Amst'dm | 11 | 52 | f |
| Athens | 20 | 68 | f |
| Bahrain | 22 | 72 | s |
| Bangkok | 36 | 97 | s |
| Barbados | 29 | 84 | f |
| Barcelona | 15 | 59 | f |
| Beijing | 7 | 45 | c |
| Beirut | 17 | 63 | f |
| Belgrade | 7 | 45 | s |
| Berlin | 3 | 37 | c |
| Bermuda | 18 | 64 | c |
| Biarritz | 13 | 55 | f |
| Bordeaux | 14 | 57 | f |
| Brussels | 11 | 52 | s |
| Budapest | 4 | 39 | f |
| B Aires | 28 | 82 | f |
| Cairo | 21 | 70 | s |
| Cape Tn | X | | |
| Chicago | 3 | 37 | s |
| Ch'church | X | | |
| Cologne | 9 | 48 | c |
| C'phagn | 1 | 34 | c |
| Corfu | 17 | 63 | s |
| Dublin | 10 | 50 | s |
| Dubrovnik | 15 | 59 | s |
| Faro | 17 | 63 | s |
| Florence | 17 | 63 | s |
| Frankfurt | 15 | 59 | f |
| Funchal | 17 | 63 | f |
| Geneva | 13 | 55 | f |
| Gibraltar | 17 | 63 | s |
| Helsinki | 1 | 34 | s |
| Hong K | 16 | 61 | c |
| Innsbruck | 15 | 59 | s |
| Istanbul | 8 | 46 | r |
| Jeddah | 28 | 82 | s |
| Jo'burg | 21 | 70 | f |
| L Palmas | 21 | 70 | c |
| Le Touquet | 10 | 50 | f |
| Lisbon | 14 | 57 | s |
| Locarno | 17 | 63 | s |
| L Angeles | 14 | 57 | s |
| Luxembg | 15 | 59 | s |
| Luxor | 27 | 81 | s |
| Madrid | 14 | 57 | f |
| Majorca | 18 | 64 | c |
| Malaga | 17 | 63 | f |
| Malta | 17 | 63 | s |
| Melbourne | X | | |
| Mexico C | 22 | 72 | s |
| Miami | 28 | 82 | s |
| Milan | 18 | 64 | s |
| Montreal | 0 | 32 | s |
| Moscow | -4 | 25 | s |
| Munich | 14 | 57 | s |
| Nairobi | 20 | 68 | r |
| Naples | 18 | 65 | s |
| N Delhi | 25 | 77 | s |
| N York | 4 | 39 | f |
| Nice | 17 | 63 | s |
| Oslo | -2 | 28 | sn |
| Paris | 14 | 57 | s |
| Perth | X | | |
| Prague | 8 | 46 | s |
| Reykjavik | 0 | 32 | f |
| Rhodes | 19 | 66 | s |
| Rio de J | 23 | 73 | f |
| Riyadh | 23 | 73 | f |
| Rome | 18 | 64 | s |
| R'ndleway | 9 | 48 | s |
| Salzburg | 13 | 55 | s |
| S Frisco | 12 | 54 | f |
| Santiago | 22 | 72 | c |
| S Paulo | X | | |
| Seoul | 14 | 57 | c |
| Singapore | 31 | 88 | f |
| Stockholm | 0 | 32 | f |
| Strasb'rg | 15 | 59 | s |
| Sydney | 27 | 81 | s |
| Tangier | 18 | 64 | f |
| Tel Aviv | 19 | 66 | f |
| Tenerife | 20 | 68 | f |
| Tokyo | 17 | 63 | c |
| Toronto | -3 | 37 | s |
| Tunis | 20 | 68 | s |
| Valencia | 13 | 55 | f |
| Vanc'ver | 7 | 45 | c |
| Venice | 14 | 57 | f |
| Vienna | 7 | 45 | s |
| Warsaw | 1 | 34 | c |
| Wash'ton | 1 | 34 | s |
| Zurich | 16 | 61 | s |

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday X = not available



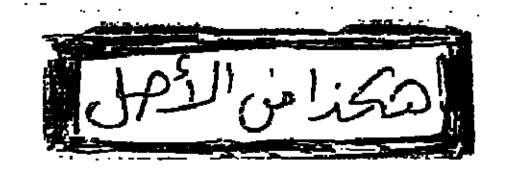
Changes to chart below from noon: high F will remain stationary but decline slowly; low S will move slowly southeast with little change; low T will move quickly northeast and deepen




| TODAY | AM | HT | PM | HT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 0:19 | 4.0 | 12:26 | 4.1 |
| Avonmouth | 6:07 | 12.8 | 18:31 | 13.0 |
| Belfast | 10:00 | 3.3 | 22:27 | 3.3 |
| Cardiff | 5:53 | 11.9 | 18:17 | 12.0 |
| Devonport | 4:41 | 5.2 | 17:07 | 5.1 |
| Dover | 9:58 | 6.3 | 22:21 | 6.5 |
| Dublin | 10:33 | 3.9 | 23:03 | 3.9 |
| Falmouth | 4:12 | 5.0 | 16:38 | 4.9 |
| Greenock | 11:47 | 3.3 | - | - |
| Harwich | 11:01 | 3.8 | 23:18 | 3.8 |
| Holyhead | 9:22 | 6.4 | 21:48 | 5.4 |
| Hull (Albert D) | 5:22 | 8.1 | 17:30 | 8.4 |
| Ilfracombe | 4:58 | 8.7 | 17:21 | 8.8 |
| King's Lynn | 5:25 | 6.2 | 17:31 | 6.8 |
| Leith | 1:34 | 5.1 | 13:50 | 5.3 |
| Liverpool | 10:15 | 9.1 | 22:38 | 9.1 |
| London Bridge | 0:33 | 6.5 | 13:03 | 6.9 |
| Lowestoft | 8:45 | 2.3 | 20:38 | 2.4 |
| Margate | 11:12 | 4.5 | 23:21 | 4.7 |
| Milford Haven | 5:11 | 6.5 | 17:33 | 6.6 |
| Newquay | 4:04 | 6.6 | 16:25 | 6.6 |
| Oban | 4:57 | 3.8 | 17:19 | 3.7 |
| Penzance | 3:33 | 5.2 | 15:54 | 5.2 |
| Portland | 5:51 | 1.8 | 18:25 | 1.8 |
| Portsmouth | 10:19 | 4.4 | 22:47 | 4.5 |
| Shoreham | 10:10 | 5.9 | 22:38 | 6.2 |
| Southampton | 9:56 | 4.3 | 22:26 | 4.4 |
| Swansea | 5:19 | 11.8 | 17:43 | 12.0 |
| Tees | 2:43 | 9.8 | 14:52 | 9.8 |
| Walton-On-Naze | 10:51 | 4.0 | 23:06 | 4.0 |

All times GMT. Heights in metres





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# THE TIMES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 16 1999

**United in Inter crunch**
Sport, page 48

### German telecoms company nets £1.8bn

# Market dives as Veba sells C&W stake

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

A SURPRISE, heavily discounted sale of 10 per cent of Cable & Wireless sent shock waves through the telecommunications sector on the London stock market yesterday, with the FTSE 100 spiralling downward after its recent record-breaking highs.

The sale of the stake by Veba, the German telecoms company, which is thought to be the biggest "bought deal" on European markets, also netted ABN Amro Rothschild, the Dutch-owned securities house and Cazenove, the broker, about £27 million for a morning's work.

In a secret, dawn operation, Vebaoffloaded its entire C&W stake, netting £1.8 billion. It was not only the size of the deal — 246 million shares — that stunned the market but also the price at which Veba decided to exit.

The shares closed Friday night at 830½p but it emerged in early morning trading that Veba had decided to sell its holding at more than £1 less, at 724.4p, a massive 12 per cent discount. News of the deal saw C&W lose 10 per cent of their value by the end of the day, closing at 751p, down 79½p, and taking about £2 billion off the company's market value.

The deal and its price badly hit other telecoms stocks, with Telewest, the cable company, off by nearly 8 per cent and Colt Telecom, the advanced data group, down by over 5 per cent. British Telecom shares fell by 26½p to £10.58.

The FTSE 100, which fell by 122 points at one stage, recovered to finish the day at 6,206.8, a net loss of 75.4 points.

In an operation that began with market briefings at 7am and involved all of ABN Amro's salesforce, working in co-operation with Cazenove, the block of 246 million shares was sold on to a wide range of institutions both in the UK and abroad at 735p a share, making the brokers a gross profit of 10.8p per share.

A significant proportion of the shares were sold within ten minutes of the market opening and the transaction was completed within two hours. ABN Amro won the assignment following a competitive tender among securities houses.

The size of the discount shocked some City analysts, given the recent strength of telecommunications stocks. VEBA, however, said that its timing was precise because it said that it fears telecommunications companies are too highly rated. It added that it was "very, very important" to the company to sell the shares in a single package because if it split the sale, it might not get so good a price if it were to sell a second tranche later in the year.

The company says it accepted the inevitable discount involved in selling such a large holding in a single transaction. ABN Amro, in turn, took the risk that it would be able to sell such a large stake before anything unexpected happened to the market.

Veba bought its 10.2 per cent stake for DM2.5 billion in early 1995 as part of its alliance with C&W designed to tackle jointly both the German market in particular, and continental Europe in general.

Changes of management over time at C&W led to a change in strategy, with the London-based company's priorities being given over to the development of its British operations into Cable & Wireless Communications, the cable group created by merging Mercury Communications and three cable groups.

"Since the dissolution of the alliance in the spring of 1997, Veba has viewed its shareholding as a financial investment that has shown extremely positive development," the German company said. Veba said it received more than DM5.1 billion, which means its return is more than double its original investment.

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Stock market, page 30

## TUNNELLING BACK UP




# Eurotunnel shares hit three-year high after profit boost

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Eurotunnel climbed above 100p for the first time in almost three years yesterday as the debt-laden Channel Tunnel operator said its operating profit has trebled.

The shares added 3p to 101½p — more than double the 45½p low set in April last year. They are now ranked among the top 25 best-performers in London over the past 12 months. City analysts said the rise in the shares — which began trading at 244p when it floated in December 1987 — has been driven by hope that its financial restructuring is proving a success.

It recently negotiated a £4.4 billion debt-for-equity swap which left a £279 million exceptional gain from financial restructuring over 1998.

Patrick Ponsolle, executive chairman, warned the City that passenger numbers will fall this year when it is forced to put up ticket prices to cover the revenue that will be lost when duty-free shopping is abolished in the summer.

However, he predicted that this drop would be temporary. It expects additional income to be generated by large shopping centres that are being created on both sides of the Channel.

Eurotunnel made £195 million (£130 million) in retail sales for 1998 — making 32 per cent of group total, which jumped 26 per cent to £666 million. Before £378 million of debt repayments, operating profit was £184 million (£57 million) for 1998. The £279 million of exceptional profit from the refinancing left a £64 million net profit. Underlying losses were reduced to £215 million (£611 million).

M Ponsolle said operating performance had grown more quickly than expected but conceded that 1999 would be a year of "transition". He argued that the increase in fares should not adversely affect growth because fares had, in fact, fallen substantially since the launch of rail services.

## Business Today





**Anatole Kaletsky**
on Germany's economic U-turn
Page 31

**STOCK MARKET INDICES**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| FTSE 100 | 6206.8 | (-75.4) |
| Yield | 2.56% | |
| FTSE All Share | 2853.52 | (-31.22) |
| Nikkei | 15779.60 | (+290.74) |
| New York: | | |
| Dow Jones | 9941.57 | (+65.22)* |
| S&P Composite | 1303.06 | (+8.47)* |

**US RATE**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Federal Funds | [illegible]* | [illegible] |
| Long bond | [illegible]* | [illegible] |
| Yield | 5.53%* | (5.53%) |

**LONDON MONEY**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3-mth interbank | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Liffe long gilt future (Jun) | 116.64 | (116.64) |

**STERLING**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| New York: | | |
| $ | 1.6227* | (1.6320) |
| London: | | |
| $ | 1.6217 | (1.6340) |
| € | 1.4823 | ([illegible]) |
| SFr | 2.3726 | (2.3872) |
| Yen | 191.64 | (194.76) |
| £ Index | 102.3 | (103.1) |

**DOLLAR**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| London: | | |
| € | 1.0930* | ([illegible]) |
| SFr | 1.4560* | ([illegible]) |
| Yen | 117.68* | ([illegible]) |
| $ index | 107.9 | (103.0) |

Tokyo close Yen 118.47

**NORTH SEA OIL**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brent 15-day (May) | $12.70 | ($12.63) |

**GOLD**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| London close | $289.85 | ($291.55) |

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates ............ Page 28

# Counter bid hopes dashed

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

IAN CLUBB, chairman of First Choice, dampened hopes that a counter-bidder will emerge for the UK tour operator, which yesterday announced a £1.45 billion merger with Kuoni, of Switzerland.

Mr Clubb said other companies that had made tentative approaches — believed to include Airtours and Preussag, which controls Thomas Cook — had been rejected at an early stage. He said: "Our analysis is that any combination of two of the top four UK tour operators could be referred to the Office of Fair Trading or the European authorities, and that is an unacceptable risk."

First Choice shares fell almost 8 per cent to 173p yesterday. Mr Clubb, who will be executive chairman of the enlarged group, said he was disappointed with the share price reaction, and expected to see a rerating once the implications of the deal were understood by the market.

The merged company will be called Kuoni Holdings. It will be 53 per cent owned by Kuoni shareholders and 47 per cent by First Choice shareholders. Daniel Affolter, chairman of Kuoni, will be executive deputy chairman, while Riccardo Gullotti will be chief executive. Mr Gullotti is currently chief executive of Kuoni. The company will be listed on the London and Swiss exchanges.

Mr Clubb said that there was very little overlap between the two businesses and there would be no job losses.

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# Nationwide to offer euro loan

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

NATIONWIDE, the UK's biggest building society, is to launch the first mortgage where the interest paid is linked to the European Central Bank rate.

Interest is set at 1.75 per cent above the ECB rate, giving a rate of 4.75 per cent, but borrowers will also benefit from a 1 per cent discount in the first year.

The monthly interest payments on a £50,000 mortgage at 4.75 per cent are £186. On a standard Halifax mortgage, where the interest is currently 6.95 per cent, the monthly interest payments are £271. However, Halifax does offer a two-year, 2 per cent discount loan that matches the Nationwide rate.

Borrowers do not have to repay the Nationwide mortgage in euros, as it will operate in sterling. In the past, mortgages that took advantage of low interest rates in Europe were linked to a particular currency. The borrower took the risk that mortgage costs would rise if sterling devalued.

The loan, which will be available from March 24, will set the link with the ECB rate for ten years. There will be a penalty fee for early redemption. For the first five years of the mortgage, the penalty is set at nine months' interest; after that the redemption penalty begins to fall away.

Nationwide refused to give details about how it was able to offer the rate. It said that it had hedged against any unexpected currency fluctuations between the euro and sterling.

The society said it had made only limited funds available, so the mortgages will be available to those who meet the society's lending criteria on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Government is committed to joining the European single currency in principle but has ruled it out during this Parliament. It has pledged a referendum on the issue.

# DuPont buys GM seed firm

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

DUPONT, the US chemical company, has raised the stakes in the competition for leadership in genetically modified crops with a $7.7 billion (£4.75 billion) takeover of the world's largest seed business.

DuPont, which is rapidly transforming itself from a chemicals to life sciences group, is buying the outstanding 80 per cent of Pioneer Hi-Bred for $7.7 billion. DuPont acquired a fifth of the company, which is based in Des Moines, Iowa, in January last year for $1.7 billion and established a joint venture, Optimum Quality Grains, to develop the new business.

The investment by DuPont maintains the frenzied pace of billion-dollar acquisitions in the seeds sector by agribusiness and biotech companies. The investment provides further evidence that the controversy in Europe over GM foods is not deterring major agribusiness firms from pouring money into the business.

Seed companies such as Pioneer, which last year introduced 37 corn hybrids, are seen by some as vital to the success of any investment in genetically engineered crops. They provide the geneplasm in which new traits, such as resistance to insects or disease, can be incorporated, as well as distribution for the new crops.

Charles Holliday, chairman of DuPont, said that the deal would create a businss with $5 billion in sales, enabling Dupont "to speed new products to market". Charles Johnson, chairman of Pioneer, said: "Crop genetics offers tremendous potential for meeting the needs of farmers, agriculture and consumers around the world."

DuPont will have invested a total of $9.4 billion in Pioneer on completion. The seed company had sales last year of $1.8 billion and net income of $270 million.

# German policy under attack

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN UNION finance ministers yesterday called on Germany to take tougher action to control its budget, giving warning that its economy is highly vulnerable to a further slowdown in growth.

In the first Ecofin meeting since the resignation of Oskar Lafontaine last week, EU finance ministers wasted little time in launching an attack on the policies closely associated with the former German Finance Minister.

Ministers described the German deficit reduction plans as "too modest", claiming that the country is over-reliant on achieving a rapid return to economic growth.

The EU also delivered a clear message to Herr Lafontaine's successor, Hans Eichel, that he should not persist with plans to encourage inflation-busting pay deals. The finance ministers instead agreed that Germany needed "moderate wage developments and structural policies" to fight unemployment.

Rodrigo Rato, the Spanish Finance Minister, added that the European Commission was likely to revise down its 1999 forecast for growth across the euro zone to about 2 per cent from 2.6 per cent. However, Señor Rato insisted that there are signs "which point to a recovery in the European economy in the second half of this year".

The warnings, however, failed to dent the euro, which enjoyed a firm day's trading on the foreign exchanges, making modest gains against both the pound and the dollar.

The euro climbed back to $1.0935 — close to the level reached in the immediate aftermath of the resignation of Herr Lafontaine. The euro also firmed against the pound, climbing from 66.98p to 67.49p, while the pound lost more than a cent against the dollar to close at $1.6216.

# GRE quits HQ after 200 years

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange is poised to leave its headquarters at the Royal Exchange buildings in London's financial district, one of the City's most famous landmarks (Marianne Curphey writes).

The building, in which GRE has been based for more than 200 years, could fetch up to £200 million, according to some analysts. A sale of the whole premises is unlikely, however, while other tenants, including State Street Bank of the United States, are happy to remain there. The Royal Exchange freehold is held by the City of London Corporation and the Mercers Company.

Axa, the biggest insurance company in the world, won control of GRE after making a £3.5 billion bid last month.

A number of other insurers, including the Prudential, are finding that their grandiose offices are no longer suitable for the new technology and trading systems required.

Commentary, page 29

# Microsoft alliance targets Net users

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT is joining forces with Hewlett-Packard, Intel and Nortel to develop new products to enable office telephone networks to handle both voice and data communications.

There is fierce competition among technology companies trying to create new products that link the Internet, voice transmissions and data communications.

John Roth, the chief executive officer of Nortel, said products devised by the new partnership will incorporate voice with Internet Protocol, the standard by which data is carried on most computer networks. Mr Roth said: "This is really about bringing out products and capabilities to allow business customers to take full advantage of the Web for electronic commerce in ways that any one company could not do."

By sharing product information, the alliance will have a critical advantage over competitors who are also trying to make business on the Internet easier. At present, the private branch exchanges, or PBXs, that direct voice and fax calls in many businesses are not compatible with data transmissions.

Two new products were exhibited by Hewlett-Packard and Nortel at a briefing in San José, California, yesterday. The products will be designed to run on Microsoft's Windows NT software, a program that allows many computers within a single business to operate as a network. Windows NT has been under pressure amid delays in delivering a software upgrade and competition from the free Linux network program.

The announcement follows an earlier alliance that aims to make the Internet accessible by voice over a telephone line. That group, which included British Telecom, is developing voice-recognition software.

# Sales of homes building at Bovis

BY ADAM JONES

THE recent revival in housebuilding shares was given fresh momentum yesterday when Bovis Homes said that sales in the first two months of 1999 were up on the same period of 1998.

Bovis said that low inflation, low interest rates and rising earnings were helping to offset the slowdown in the UK economy. The number of reservations in January and February was up more than 10 per cent, and selling prices were about 2 per cent higher.

Malcolm Harris, chief executive, expects prices to rise by 4 per cent over the course of the full year, with completed sales rising from 2,303 homes to about 2,500. The shares rose from 261½p to 273½p at the close of trading.

Bovis was reporting a 21 per cent increase in 1998 profits, which rose from £37.3 million in 1997 to £45 million, even though sales dropped from £248.9 million to £234.3 million. Mr Harris said that this had been achieved by adding extra features on homes, such as electronic garage doors and "farmhouse" kitchens, and keeping increases in the cost of building to a minimum through greater standardisation.

However, Mr Harris complained that Bovis was still encountering planning delays, both on brownfield sites — land which has had a former use — and virgin, greenfield land. He said that the process for appealing against planning decisions needed to be accelerated.

Bovis now has enough plots with planning consent in reserve to cover the next four years, based on 1998 sales rates. However, Mr Harris estimated that only one third of its reserve sites were brownfield, even though the Government is pushing for housebuilders to build 60 per cent of all new homes on recycled land. In 1998 just 34 per cent of Bovis's production was on brownfield land, up from 30 per cent in the previous year.

Adjusted earnings per share rose from 22.8p to 27.6p. A final dividend of 6.67p per share will make a total of 10p for the year.

Tempus, page 30



Plan of campaign: Malcolm Harris, chief executive of Bovis, said that the housebuilder was encountering planning delays

## Burford eyes up Europe

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the property company, hinted yesterday that an acquisition programme will see it looking for developments on the Continent (Robert Lea writes).

European deals may be aimed at adding to its fledgeling hotels joint venture with the New York hotelier Ian Schrager. The company, which also said yesterday that it is lobbying for the paving over of London's Piccadilly, announced pre-tax profits of £26.6 million (£24.7 million) for 1998. The total dividend rises 9 per cent to 2.5p per share.

# Managers could leave Kalon

BY MARTIN BARROW

SENIOR managers of Kalon Group could leave the UK paints company if a proposed £500 million takeover by Total goes ahead.

The managers are unhappy at the prospect of losing their indepedence if the French oil company, which already owns 63 per cent of Kalon, goes ahead with plans to buy in the outstanding shares.

Total's interest is the legacy of a 1995 deal in which Kalon merged with Euridep, Total's paints arm. Kalon has continued to operate as an autonomous business and directors are keen to retain the separate listing.

Total's decision to buy out Kalon's minority investors follows last year's agreement to merge with Petrofina to form one of Europe's largest oil companies. The enlarged Total will also own about 80 per cent of Sigma-Lafarge, a European paints business with about £700 million of sales. Kalon had hoped that Sigma would be reversed into the British company, creating one of Europe's largest paints businesses.

Today the company is likely to report a 16 per cent fall in 1998 underlying pre-tax profits to about £38 million.

# ASW to shed 300 staff in wake of Co-Steel merger

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ASW, the steelmaker based in Cardiff, is to cut 300 jobs as it merges operations with Co-Steel, the Sheerness steel producer it bought in December.

Graham Mackenzie, the new chief executive, who is also director-general of the Engineering Employers Federation, said that more plans to cut costs between the businesses would be announced next month. ASW bought Co-Steel's Sheerness operation, a division of the Canadian company Co-Steel, for £40 million with the backing of Candover, the venture capital company. Candover now owns 45.1 per cent of the new business.

ASW saw its losses mount last year as poor steel prices and overcapacity helped to push losses to £22 million for the year to December 31, compared with a loss of £5.8 million in the previous year.

However, Mr Mackenzie said that there were signs of price improvements for the coming months.

The loss per share climbed to 26.4p from 6.9p and again there was no final dividend.

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# Beckett to set out 'bug' compliance tables

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MARGARET BECKETT, Leader of the Commons, will today set out league tables of how government departments and public services are faring in the race to make their computers millennium compliant. She will warn poor performers that time is running out.

Research by the Government into its own action and that of local authorities and public bodies shows that some programmes have slipped.

Mrs Beckett will say that there should be a greater use of independent assessment to check that programmes are on course — a move she will also press on businesses. She said: "There can be a bit of a reality gap between those who think they are ready and those who actually are."

The Government wants business to ensure the compliance of small companies — the sector which is the least prepared for the millennium — by pressing all companies to insist that their suppliers prove they are compliant.

# Glanbia chief attacks milk price

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

MILK PRICES in the UK, under investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, are too high because of Milk Marque's auction process, according to the managing-director designate of Glanbia, the Irish foods group.

"There has to be a better way of doing it, a more transparent auctioning of milk," said Ned Sullivan, who added that the amount of British milk it takes directly from farmers will rise to more than half its total in 1999.

Cost-savings in the year to January 2 from a reorganisation enabled Glanbia, formerly Avonmore Waterford, to raise pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits by 25 per cent to Ir£75 million (£64 million) on sales down almost 3 per cent to Ir£2.3 billion. Glanbia is raising the total dividend by 9 per cent to Ir5.35p.

# Warning after Laporte rise

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

LAPORTE, the niche chemicals group, has fought off difficult market conditions to report a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £134 million for 1998.

The result was slightly ahead of market expectations, but Laporte shares fell 31p to 626p amid forecasts of a flat 1999.

Jim Leng, chief executive, gave warning that Laporte expected no help this year from the major economies in which it operates.

A second interim dividend of 17.25p was declared, taking the year's payout to 26.5p (25.75p).

## EXCHANGE RATES

| | Bank Buys | Bank Sells |
|---|---|---|
| Australia $ | 2.66 | 2.49 |
| Austria Sch | 21.43 | 19.77 |
| Belgium Fr | 63.08 | 58.12 |
| Canada $ | 2.604 | 2.416 |
| Cyprus Cyp £ | 0.9035 | 0.8320 |
| Denmark kr | 11.63 | 10.74 |
| Egypt | 5.73 | 5.12 |
| Finland Mkk | 9.38 | 8.63 |
| France Fr | 10.21 | 9.43 |
| Germany Dm | 3.067 | 2.825 |
| Greece Dr | 503 | 464 |
| Hong Kong $ | 13.42 | 12.22 |
| Iceland | 129 | 109 |
| Indonesia | 17887 | 12887 |
| Ireland Pt | 1.2237 | 1.1347 |
| Israel Shk | 6.90 | 6.24 |
| Italy Lira | 3050 | 2813 |
| Japan Yen | 206.79 | 189.26 |
| Malta | 0.674 | 0.615 |
| Netherlds Gld | 3.462 | 3.167 |
| New Zealand $ | 3.19 | 2.95 |
| Norway Kr | 13.30 | 12.36 |
| Portugal Esc | 310.18 | 288.15 |
| S Africa Rd | 10.73 | 9.77 |
| Spain Pta | 258.51 | 239.72 |
| Sweden Kr | 14.03 | 12.93 |
| Switzerland Fr | 2.529 | 2.311 |
| Turkey Lira | 606566 | 566250 |
| USA $ | 1.731 | 1.588 |

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## Nissan shares rise over Renault talk

SHARES in Nissan, the Japanese carmaker, rose sharply yesterday amid speculation that Renault, the French manufacturer, is on the point of buying more than a third of its capital. Sources in Paris and Tokyo said the French company was prepared to pay at least £1.71 billion for a stake of between 34 and 40 per cent in its ailing Japanese counterpart. The two groups would together form the world's fourth-biggest car manufacturer, with combined annual sales of 4.5 million vehicles.

Louis Schweitzer, Renault's chairman, met Yoshikazu Hanawa, the Nissan chairman, in Paris at the weekend. Their meeting spurred shares in Nissan, which recouped the 12 per cent loss incurred last week after the breakdown of talks with DaimlerChrysler, the German group that had also been interested in a stake. Renault is holding a board meeting today and analysts in Paris expect an announcement afterwards. The Japanese company has debts of £22 billion.

## Celtic appointment

ALLAN MACDONALD, the managing director of BAe in Asia and Africa, is leaving to become the chief executive of Celtic, the Scottish Premier League football club. The move follows the appointment of Frank O'Callaghan, the hotelier, as chairman. The two will assume the day-to-day running of the company from Fergus McCann, the Scottish-Canadian financier who saved Celtic from ruin and now wants to sell out. Mr McCann has rejected a bid approach from a consortium led by Kenny Dalglish and Jim Kerr.

## Robert H Lowe in red

SEVERE problems within Robert H Lowe's sportswear division left the company with a pre-tax loss of £3.4 million in the year to October 31, compared with a profit of £4.1 million in the previous year. Turnover rose from £42.1 million to £44.5 million. With a loss per share of 2.34p (earnings of 2.76p) there will be no final dividend, meaning that there is no dividend payment for 1998. The company suffered the loss of adidas as a customer last year, causing the loss of 300 jobs. It said, however, that its packaging division should offer a "solid performance" this year.

## Premiums warning

THE UK's largest insurers are poised to impose double-digit increases in insurance premiums in order to recover the costs of underwriting losses, restructuring and merger activities and provide better returns to shareholders, according to the British Investment and Insurance Brokers Association (BIIBA). Consumers renewing their insurance policy should not accept raised premiums as standard, BIIBA says, but should check with a broker to see if a cheaper alternative is available.

## Bell plans flotation

BELL SECURITY, the high-tech alarms and surveillance business, aims to raise up to £21 million with a flotation on the London stock market, the company announced yesterday. Bell, which plans to sell up to 30 per cent of its equity, is expected to be valued at about £70 million. Bell specialises in installing and maintaining intruder detection systems, closed-circuit television, fire alarms and systems for controlling site and building access. The group reported pre-tax profits of £3.8 million in 1998 on sales of 34.1 million.

## Benchmark on the up

BENCHMARK GROUP, the Central London property investment and development company, lifted net asset value to 247.3p a share from 197.3p in the six months to December 31. At the pre-tax level, profits fell to £8 million from £8.7 million. Net rental income was £10.5 million, compared with £10.3 million in the first half of the previous year. During the first half of the year, the company raised £49.5 million by way of an issue of unsecured loan stock. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.75p a share from 1.65p.

## Lavendon improves

SHARES of Lavendon Group rose 25p to 330p yesterday after the powered access rental company reported a 52 per cent rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to £7 million. Earnings were 20.64p a share, up 28 per cent over 1997. The total dividend rises 20 per cent to 4.7p a share, with a 3.2p final. David Price, chairman and chief executive, said that he expected the company to increase market share again in 1999. Operating margins would benefit as the depot network, including 20 new branches, became better established. Lavendon shares peaked at 545p last year.

## Ruberoid shares slide

SHARES of Ruberoid fell 6p to 93p yesterday after the waterproofing systems and protective coatings company, proposed an unchanged dividend of 6.1p a share for 1998. Pre-tax profits from continuing operations rose to £7.5 million from £6.5 million during a year of restructuring, when a lengthy disposal programme was completed. Adjusted earnings improved to 9.9p a share from 8.7p. The board has declared a second interim dividend of 4.2p a share. David Kendall, chairman, said that the company would make further progress in 1999.

## Spirax lifts dividend

SPIRAX-SARCO, the engineering company, is lifting the total dividend for the year to December 31, 1998, to 16.5p a share from 15.8p, in spite of an 11 per cent fall in underlying pre-tax profits to £42.3 million. In addition, there was an exceptional charge of £11.6 million to cover relocation of the company's US plant, reducing 1998 pre-tax profits to £30.64 million from £47.7 million and earnings to 24.1p a share from 38.3p. Turnover of £249 million compared with £265.6 million previously. The final dividend is 11.5p a share.

# Tunnel hides bushel under a light



## COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The first profits from Eurotunnel may be illusory but the light is real. It would take more than the efforts of a few striking Frenchmen to extinguish the mood of optimism that now emanates from the company.

The tunnel is now increasing its business, both in freight and passenger numbers. Patrick Ponsolle reckons that he can travel from Paris to London in two hours and 40 minutes, even if other travellers do not always find the journey quite so speedy. Eurostar still offers a remarkably fast, and comfortable, route from city centre to city centre. If the financial debacle of Eurotunnel's beginnings can be put to one side, it is a remarkable achievement.

But investors do not easily forgive companies for financial incompetence even if they demonstrate engineering excellence. Eurotunnel has had to go through a period of rehabilitation. The share price indicates that it is now close to being allowed a fresh start. The indications now are that it will be more than able to cover its interest bill by 2003, and profits should flow swiftly from then on.

The loss of duty-free sales will cause less of a dent to its numbers than to the ferry operators, although it will be used to explain an increase in fares. The company has high hopes that BAA, with all its experience of persuading air travellers to part with far more cash than they had intended to, while they browse through the departure lounge, will be able to work the same trick at either end of the tunnel.

But how else does a tunnel owner maximise its income? M Ponsolle and his colleagues are now giving some thought as to where Eurotunnel goes from here. Running optical fibre through the tunnel was an obvious first add-on to its main business but then what? Only a very brave individual would risk talking aloud about digging a second tunnel at this delicate phase in the company's rapprochement with the investment community.

There may be a stage when a second tunnel does make economic sense: the lessons of the first should make construction costs rather more containable. But that time is far off.

So what else can Eurotunnel offer by way of growth prospects? It is a genuine Anglo-French company, which is a rarity. Would there be takers for consultancy services on how this unlikely combination can be made to work in the new Europe? Probably a very limited market, at least unless and until Britain embraces the euro.

Then what scope is there for selling other services to Eurotunnel users? There are many of them who are now regular customers. Some, it must be concluded, are travelling back from France with their vans packed with booze and cigarettes, of which the Chancellor would not approve. Eurotunnel would like to be able to help to curb the smugglers: they tend to upset other passengers. But if the other regulars might be in the mood to buy financial services or language lessons, Eurotunnel may be in the market to supply them.

### Fortune favours the brave in C&W deal

The City is not just a casino but it does reward those prepared to take risks — if they make the right call. For just a few hours, ABN Amro and Cazenove were the owners of a tenth of Cable & Wireless. They bought the shares and gambled that they would be able to sell them at a higher price, and fast. They succeeded in doing just that and their rewards are huge: even Bill Gates would goggle at £27 million being earned so rapidly.

But the players should not be begrudged their winnings. Bought deals are notoriously difficult to do, and this was a mammoth one. For ABN Amro's Nick Bannister, his brief spell as a Cable & Wireless shareholder was akin to swimming with sharks.

Less adventurous characters than he still quake at the recollection of a 1990 transaction that guaranteed bought deals their scary status. Kleinwort Benson agreed to relieve Burmah Oil of a troublesome stake in Premier Consolidated Oil. The firm bought the £138 million stake at 99p a share, hoping to turn it rapidly at 103p. But takers were there none. Eventually, Kleinwort had to settle for selling at just 78p, taking a £34 million hit. The resignation of Charles Hue Williams, then in charge of the bank's securities division, soon followed.

It was said that City rivals objected to the margin Kleinwort intended to make on the deal. ABN and Cazenove cut their price less greedily but, because of the discount to the market price, they ensured that, barring an international catastrophe, they would get the stock away.

International catastrophes do happen, but rarely. Had yesterday been the day that Microsoft revealed a secret plan for taking over the entire telecoms scene it just might have been enough to throw out the bank's most careful calculations. But it did not.

Veba was happy to take its profit on the shares and leave something for the next man. Apart from the tidy profit for ABN and Cazenove, that also means an instant uplift for those who took the C&W shares from them. Although C&W took an instant hit, the price is still well above the 735p at which the institutions bought yesterday, and the chances are that it will quickly recover much of yesterday's fall.

Veba put the deal out for tender, so we can conclude that other houses were even more cautious in their pricing than ABN. For Mr Bannister, winning the mandate, and successfully concluding the deal, represents a huge milestone in his efforts to reposition the bank. This was effectively a European deal conducted through European houses: not the mighty bulge bracket American investment banks which usually dominate the scene.

### Life's a beach for captains of industry

Business life can be almost as tough as politics. While poor John Prescott has been having to cope with the rigours of a 12-day visit to India and the Maldives, so have a group of wage slaves from the private sector.

The Government takes the view that when ministers venture overseas, it makes sense for them to be accompanied by a retinue of businessmen. In theory, the aim is to help to drum up much-needed export business. Who could blame the politicians if they did not also harbour the wish to drag a few fat cats away from their comfortable offices to experience the sacrifices that our leaders are prepared to make?

Those who accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister on this visit have been forced to endure nights in luxury hotels and island-hopping on a vast cruiser. They have been subjected to the discomfort of a helicopter trip to the Taj Mahal. They have seen the pugilistic Mr Prescott battling for Britain, confronting tigers and coral reefs, if not trade barriers.

No doubt the businessmen have been duly impressed. If they took their cameras along, perhaps they could show the photographs to liven up the next annual meeting. Shareholders in Anglian Water, National Grid and BG would surely be thrilled at the chance to share, if only on celluloid, the experiences of the executives they each sent to accompany Mr Prescott.

Details of the contracts that have been won as a result of the expedition might come later — much, much later.

### Royally appointed

WHO WILL BE the next inhabitants of the splendid Royal Exchange building in the heart of the Square Mile? It has been judged surplus to requirements by the new owners of Guardian Royal Exchange: its layout is not ideal for a modern finance house and its status as a listed building makes that hard to change. Business-like banks would rather head to Canary Wharf. Yet for a chairman keen to impress, Royal Exchange will have its attractions. If a fountain in the foyer or a new Roller for the boss signal danger, beware the organisation that heads to Royal Exchange.

# Buyback plan hits Tomkins

By Paul Armstrong

SHARES in Tomkins, the engineering conglomerate, fell 10p to 224½p yesterday after the company unveiled a £417.5 million plan to buy back up to 15 per cent of its stock.

Analysts blamed the drop on Tomkins's admission that it had failed to find suitable acquisitions in the past year, making the buyback its most attractive option.

Tomkins has asked shareholders to offer stock at prices between 220p and 250p. The company will set a final price when the tender closes on April 16, the day shareholders will vote on the scheme.

The tender range represents a premium of up to 21.4 per cent over the middle market price of 206p on Thursday, a day before Tomkins revealed its buyback intentions.

Tomkins also said yesterday that it would sell its UK and US mowing, snowblowing and bicycle interests. It refused to reveal the carrying value of these businesses.

But it plans to retain Smith & Wesson, the gunmaker which is the subject of legal action in the US for alleged negligence.

Tomkins spent £741 million on bolt-on acquisitions and £88 million on share buybacks in the year to May 2, 1998.

But Greg Hutchings, executive chairman, said yesterday that the group had been unable to repeat this in the past year despite having studied more potential purchases than ever before.

Mr Hutchings said none of the prospective acquisitions would have generated sufficient returns.

A stated lack of suitable purchases, combined with the cheap price of debt relative to equity, has fuelled a surge in share buybacks across many sectors in recent months.

Guy Hewett, an analyst with Charterhouse Securities, has forecast that Tomkins will report earnings per share of 23.6p for the year to May 1, 1999.

This puts the company on a prospective multiple of just 9.5 times, reflecting the market's dislike of its diversified asset portfolio.

# Fairey's ten-year hitch

By Adam Jones

SHARES in Fairey, the electronics group, slumped nearly 10 per cent after profits fell for the first time in ten years.

The impact of the Asian financial crisis, which led to overcapacity in the semiconductors market, was worse than Fairey expected. Headline profits for 1998 rose from £52.2 million to £67.2 million, but only because Fairey made an exceptional profit of nearly £37 million on the sale of its aerospace business. Underlying profit fell 41 per cent to £34.2 million.

Fairey was forced to make 11 per cent of its staff redundant during the year, at a cost of £1.5 million. It said it was "cautious" about short-term prospects, with demand unlikely to improve before the latter part of the year. Normalised earnings per share fell from 35.7p to 21.7p. A dividend of 7.3p will be paid, making a total of 10.5p for the year, up 5 per cent.

# Rockware sold to Ardagh

By Fraser Nelson

ARDAGH, the Irish packaging and containers company, has become the second-largest player in Britain's glass market after paying £247 million for Rockware in a sale forced by EU competition officials.

After eight months of talks, it has agreed terms to buy Rockware from Owens-Illinois, the American company which bought BTR's glass and packaging arm for £2.2 billion just over a year ago.

Owens-Illinois was ordered to sell Rockware because it already controlled 35 per cent of the UK glass market through its United Glass subsidiary. Rockware has a 31 per cent share. Ardagh said that there would be no factory closures at either Knottingley and Doncaster, which employ about 1,000 workers. Owens-Illinois recently decided close its Merseyside factory at the cost of 400 jobs — blaming overcapacity in the industry.

# Abbey subsidiary loan pursuit in OFT action

By Caroline Merrell

THE Office of Fair Trading is suing an Abbey National subsidiary over a clause in its unsecured loan agreement that allows it to charge interest to customers that have been to court because they cannot keep up their repayments.

The landmark case, the first the OFT has bought under the 1994 Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations, could have implications for many lenders. The preliminary hearing tomorrow is against First National, a subsidiary of Abbey National.

Loans offered by First National average £4,000. Under the terms of its consumer contract, the lender reserves the right to charge its borrowers interest, even if a court has agreed a sum for a borrower to pay off the outstanding debt. First National is defending the action.




# Telecoms undermined by Veba's C&W sell-off

VEBA'S sale of its 10.2 per cent stake in **Cable & Wireless** combined to undermine the telecom sector and starve the rest of the equity market of funds.

The 246.19 million shares in C&W were bought jointly by brokers ABN Amro and Cazenove at 724p. They later sold them on to institutions at 735p, netting a profit of £27 million.

The sale was oversubscribed. One broker applied for about £300,000 of stock and was subscribed less than 15 per cent. C&W finished 79½p down at 751p on turnover of 528.58 million shares. That compares with total turnover for the market of 1.49 billion shares.

Telecom stocks slipped as funds were drained out of the system and institutions began adjusting their weightings in the sector. **Telewest**, reporting later today, fell 20½p to 243½p. There were also losses for **COLT Telecom**, 51p to 939p, **Securicor**, 17p to 531½p, **Cable & Wireless Communications**, 29p to 699p, **Orange**, 19½p to 898½p, and **British Telecom**, 26¼p to £10.58.

What with this and Friday's disappointing turn out on Wall Street, the rest of the equity market experienced a difficult session. Prices, however, managed to close above their worst levels of the day, helped by opening gains for the Dow Jones industrial average.

The FTSE 100 index down almost 123 points at one stage, eventually reduced the deficit to 75.4 at 6,206.8. The FTSE 250 index also shed 41.9 to 5,518.9.

Among blue chips, **Reed International** rallied 25½p to 525¾p after last week's disappointing trading news. **ICI**, up 11p at 547p and **WPP**, 15p dearer at 529½p, also finished higher on the day. But there were losses for **Standard Chartered**, 42½p to 897½p, **Hanson**, 25¾p to 569p and **Bass**, 38½p to 926½p.

**First Choice Holidays** retreated 14¼p to 173p as the market digested the proposed merger with Kuoni Reisen, Switzerland's package holiday operator, to form a £1.45 billion company. City speculators reckon it is unlikely that rivals such as **Airtours**, up 7½p to 507½p, will do much to deny Kuoni a free run.

AIM-listed **SCi Entertainment** was chased 22p higher to 81½p in a thin market. The company said it knew of no reason, other than favourable press comment, for the rise.

**Lynx Group** receded 7¼p to 214p despite news of share buying by several directors. Stewart Douglas-Mann, chairman, has bought 10,000 at 221p taking his holding to 20,000, while June de Moller, non executive director, also picked up 10,000 at 222p.

**Terranova** was unmoved at 104½p after rejecting a takeover approach from an unnamed suitor. The company said the terms would have undervalued the business. Shares of **Waste Recycling** were suspended at 525p pending an announcement.

Microgen Holdings firmed 3½p to 123½p *with the help of a "buy" recommendation from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker. It has set a target of 260p for the end of 2000.*

Hopes are high that **Quality Products**, up 37½p to 492½p, will come up with the goods when it unveils final results on Wednesday week. Brokers say earnings could come in 50 per cent higher accompanied by news of further e-commerce contracts.

**Scotia Holdings** was also being chased higher ahead of results later this month finishing 5½p dearer at 77p. The market is anxious for a further update of the group's link with General Mills, the food group, to develop its hunger suppressant compound. A "buy" recommendation from WestLB Panmure, the broker, was good for a rise of 43p to 516½p in **Shire Pharmaceuticals**. The broker has also upgraded its pre-tax profit forecast from £16 million to £20 million.

**Petra Diamonds** was steady at 71½p after dropping IA Pritchard Stockbrokers as adviser. It has appointed Seymour Pierce instead.

Late news on Friday, that **Tracker Network** was in talks that could lead to a management buyout, continued to fuel the shares, up 70p to 580p.

Speculation that the Government will give **BSkyB** the go-ahead to bid for **Manchester United**, providing certain conditions are met, lifted the Premiership side 9p to 240p, after touching 245p. BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, slipped 5¼p to 557¼p.

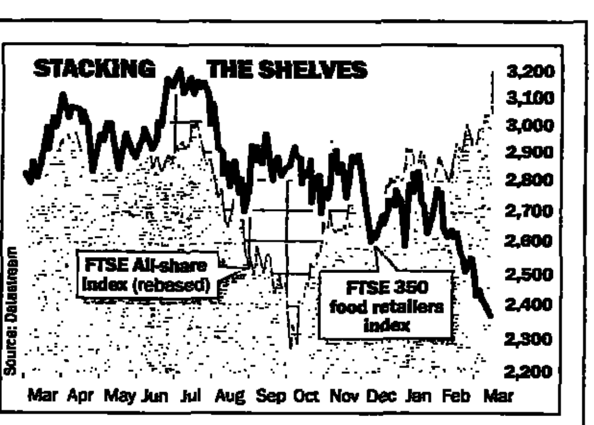
AIM-listed **BATM** Advanced rose 32p to 295p ahead of a series of presentations with brokers and fund managers later this week.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** Trading in the bond market was some of the quietest recorded this year. Investors stayed away ahead of this week's stream of economics data that includes retails sales, unemployment, average earnings and the Monetary Policy Committee meeting minutes.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished unmoved at £116.64 as 13,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 eased 2p to £145.90 as did Treasury 7 per cent 2002 on £106.49.

□ **NEW YORK:** US shares were broadly higher as Wall Steet edged towards the 10,000 mark. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 65.22 points to 9,941.57.


Jim Leng, chief executive, left, and Michael Kayser, finance director of Laporte, saw shares of the engineer dip 31p to 626p




THE supermarket chains had a mixed session ahead of publication this week of the Office of Fair Trading's inquiry into the prices they charge.

J Sainsbury firmed 2¼p to 347¼p, Asda 1p to 145¼p, Morrisons Supermarkets 6p to 282p, and Somerfield 1½p to 343p. But there were falls for Tesco, 2½p at 162p, and Shoprite, 2¾p to 20½p.

Weekend reports suggest that the report from the OFT will be less swingeing than earlier expectations. Even so, the food retailers, such as Tesco and Asda, recently embarked on a damaging fresh round of price cuts.

Lines on selected items were reduced in order to bolster market share. Brokers fear it could have impact on earnings growth.

Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, yesterday cut its average earnings growth forecast for the supermarket sector for the year to March 2000, from 7.5 per cent to 4 per cent.

It expects the sector to continue to underperform.

## MAJOR INDICES

**New York (midday):**

| | |
|---|---|
| Dow Jones | 9941.57 (+65.22) |
| S&P Composite | 1303.06 (+8.47) |

**Tokyo:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nikkei Average | 15779.60 (+290.74) |

**Hong Kong:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Hang Seng | 10838.86 (+35.10) |

**Amsterdam:**

| | |
|---|---|
| AEX Index | 535.05 (+2.03) |

**Sydney:**

| | |
|---|---|
| AO | 2989.5 (+28.2) |

**Frankfurt:**

| | |
|---|---|
| DAX | 5029.24 (+21.08) |

**Singapore:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Straits | 1494.19 (+8.45) |

**Brussels:**

| | |
|---|---|
| BEL20 | 3343.80 (+24.23) |

**Paris:**

| | |
|---|---|
| CAC-40 | 4185.12 (+10.09) |

**Zurich:**

| | |
|---|---|
| SMI Index | 7240.9 (-9.8) |

**London:**

| | |
|---|---|
| FT 30 | 3783.4 (-49.4) |
| FTSE 100 | 6206.8 (-75.4) |
| FTSE 250 | 5518.9 (-41.9) |
| FTSE 350 | 2959.4 (-33.8) |
| FTSE Eurotop 100 | 2896.46 (-15.18) |
| FTSE All-Share | 2863.52 (-31.22) |
| FTSE Non Financials | 2867.64 (-28.28) |
| FTSE Fixed Interest | 153.97 (+0.05) |
| FTSE Govt Secs | 115.23 (-0.05) |
| Bargains | 84309 |
| SEAQ Volume | 1497.0m |
| US$ | 1.6216 (-0.0122) |
| Euro | 0.6749 (+0.0051) |
| £:SDR | 1.1745 |
| Exchange Index | 102.3 (-0.8) |

Bank of England official close (4pm)

| | |
|---|---|
| RPI | 163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100 |
| RPIX | 161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100 |

## RECENT ISSUES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Axon Group | 269½ | + 12 |
| Enhanced Zero Trust | 99¾ | ... |
| Gander Properties | 7½ | − ¼ |
| Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf | 106¼ | − ¼ |
| Jupiter Enhanced Inc | 100 | ... |
| Luminar Warrants | 270 | ... |
| NBA Quantum | 110 | ... |
| Sports Internet | 138⅛ | + 19 |
| Synstar | 138 | + 2½ |

## RIGHTS ISSUES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brancote n/p (10) | 1 | ... |
| First Tech Cnv Prf n/p (320) | 16 | ... |
| Oxford Biomedica n/p (15) | 12 | + 9 |

## MAJOR CHANGES

**RISES:**

| Stock | Close | Chng | Chng% |
|---|---|---|---|
| CALA | 157½ | + 51½ | + 48.5 |
| Vanguard | 227½ | + 40 | + 21.3 |
| UK Land | 107½ | + 17 | + 18.7 |
| Somic | 80 | + 10 | + 14.2 |
| Psion | 860 | +107 | + 14.2 |
| Lavendon | 340 | + 35 | + 11.4 |
| Interior Services | 126½ | + 11½ | + 10.0 |
| Brooks Service | 104½ | + 9 | + 9.4 |
| Shire Pharms | 516½ | + 43 | + 9.0 |
| Torex | 187 | + 15½ | + 9.0 |
| Rugby Est | 172½ | + 13½ | + 8.4 |
| Nsb Retail Sys | 260 | + 20 | + 8.3 |
| Andrews Sykes | 170 | + 12½ | + 7.9 |
| Internet Tech | 156 | + 11 | + 7.5 |
| Jennings Bros | 245 | + 15 | + 6.5 |
| Takeda Chem | 2339¾ | +142¼ | + 6.4 |
| Fuji Bank Y | 329 | + 19½ | + 6.3 |
| Kier | 242½ | + 14 | + 6.1 |
| Wetherspoon JD | 273 | + 15½ | + 6.0 |
| Ranger | 234 | + 13 | + 5.8 |
| Dai Ichi Kan Y | 418¾ | + 21⅞ | + 5.5 |
| Staffware | 240 | + 12½ | + 5.4 |
| KBC Adv Tech | 204 | + 10 | + 5.1 |
| Reed Int | 525¾ | + 25½ | + 5.0 |
| Axon Group | 269½ | + 12 | + 4.6 |
| BASF DM | 2268¾ | +100 | + 4.6 |
| Bovis Homes | 273½ | + 12 | + 4.5 |

**FALLS:**

| Stock | Close | Chng | Chng% |
|---|---|---|---|
| HW Group | 82½ | − 37½ | − 31.2 |
| Superscape VR | 149 | − 41 | − 21.5 |
| Enterprise | 303 | − 38¼ | − 11.2 |
| Cable Wireless | 751 | − 79½ | − 9.5 |
| Fairey Group | 293½ | − 30½ | − 9.4 |
| PSD | 465 | − 40 | − 7.9 |
| TeleWest | 243½ | − 20½ | − 7.7 |
| First Choice | 173 | − 14½ | − 7.7 |
| Spring Gp | 167½ | − 13 | − 7.2 |

# A choice selection

THE market's reaction to the announcement of the merger of First Choice and Kuoni was hardly flattering, but it was understandable.

The fall in the First Choice share price was mainly attributable to the fading expectation that Airtours or Preussag, which controls Thomas Cook, will step in with a better offer.

In terms of immediate rewards for shareholders, there is no doubt that putting First Choice together with either Airtours or Thomas Cook would bring about swift and sizeable cost savings and significant UK market share gains — neither of which are on offer with the Kuoni deal. It is a moot point whether the competition authorities in the UK and Europe would allow a deal between First Choice and its domestic market competitors. First Choice says that a referral to the MMC or the European Commission on a domestic deal would be damaging to its business and put on hold rationalisation at this crucial stage in the industry's development.

First Choice and Kuoni, meanwhile, have almost no overlaps. This has the advantage of little risk of referral but the disadvantage of allowing few cost savings.

Even after yesterday's fall in First Choice's share price, they are on a far higher rating than when the bid rumours started flying. It still lags behind Airtours, which is rated on about 19 times 1999 earnings compared with First Choice's 15 times, but Airtours is favoured by investors for its strong, entrepreneurial management.

The structure of the deal means that First Choice and Kuoni will still have the resources to join in further industry consolidation. The shares are worth holding on to.

## Bovis Homes

INVESTORS have started realising that housebuilding stocks have been oversold, prompting a revival that has managed to survive Gordon Brown's decision to abolish tax relief on mortgage interest payments last week.

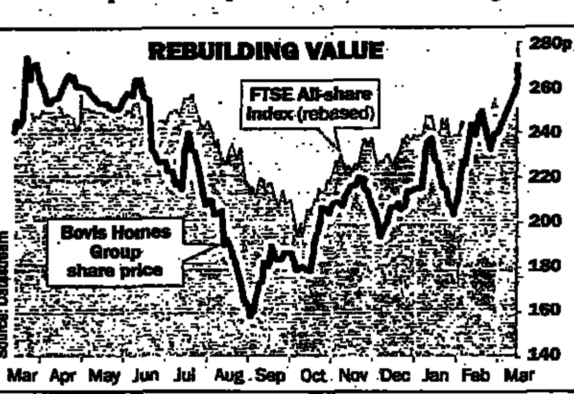
The old thinking said that housebuilding is too cyclical, a suspicion that was heightened by the recent boom in London. With UK growth faltering, the stocks were then marked down savagely.

Investors now appear to believe that low interest rates and low inflation will keep the market steady at least. In this environment, Bovis stands out as something of a blue-chip stock. It has exemplary profit margins — 19.3 per cent in 1998 at the operating level, against 12.5 per cent elsewhere — and its "land bank" contains a whopping 4.1 years' worth of plots with planning consent.

It is also appreciably more upbeat about this year's trading than the bulk of its competitors.

One downside is the fact that it is a long way away from the 60 per cent target set by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, for brownfield development. Only 34 per cent of Bovis homes were on recycled land last year. But it is not yet clear how harsh will be the punishment for those who fall short.

Bovis is still trading at about 8.5 times' predicted earnings this year. The shares may well go higher now that they have the momentum that was lacking in the sector for so long.




## Laporte

IT SEEMS the pharmaceutical chemicals group, might have given the market an overdose of good news so far this year. After falling sharply last year, the stock has added 35 per cent since early January, mainly because of strong growth in its key division of speciality organics.

But yesterday Laporte lost a slice of this gain despite its 1998 profit coming in about 5 per cent ahead of many market forecasts. Investors appear to believe that the shares have become too expensive in light of the company's relatively flat earnings outlook.

This is despite Laporte trading on prospective earnings multiples of between 12 and 14 times, compared with the sector average of 15 times.

The company has avoided much of the pain inflicted recently on many of its peers, thanks in part to its limited exposure to Asia and Latin America. While Laporte's electronics division has not escaped lightly, management has responded by slashing costs, and there appears scope for recovery later this year.

The strong market position enjoyed by many of the company's chemicals and its healthy profit margins are also reasons for optimism. But most of these attributes are already factored into the share price, leaving limited upside in the short term.

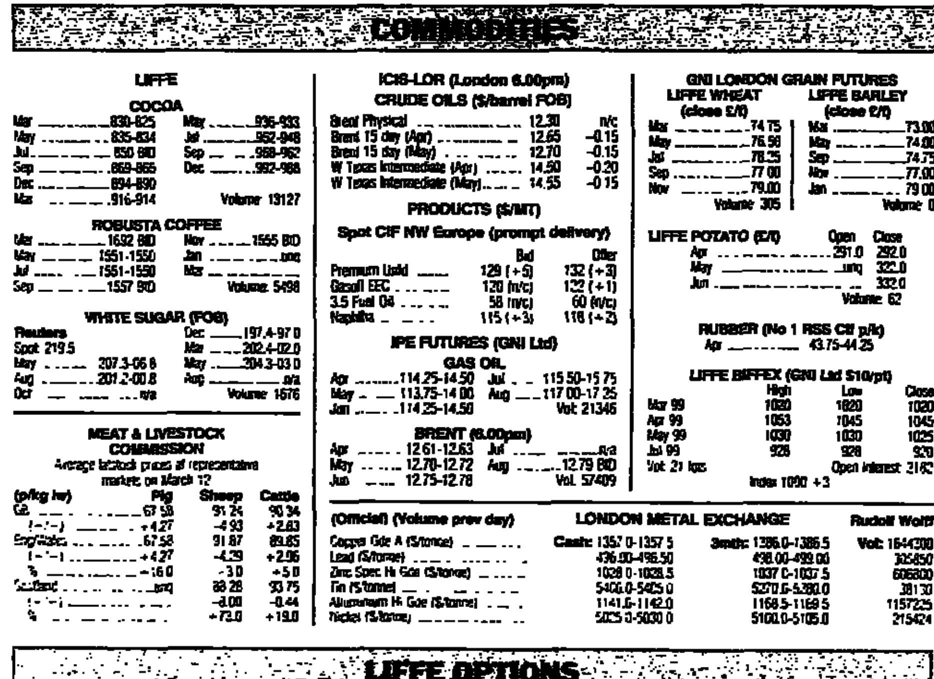
Beyond then, Laporte is well placed to reap the benefits of its heavy research and development program as well as a strong management team. Buy for the long term.

## ASW

THE small steelmaker has struggled valiantly to survive. Amid tumbling steel prices and overcapacity, the Cardiff business managed to attract private equity backing so that it could buy its former rival Co-Steel and become the number two to British Steel. This is no mean feat for a small company because venture capitalists increasingly shun the smaller sector.

Merging forces with Co-Steel, the Kent business, will enable the operation to cut some costs and to weather better the lack of demand in its markets. Yesterday we saw some initial efficiencies from the December purchase with the announcement of 300 job losses. There should be more to come. Some have calculated that £24 million of annual costs could come out for a restructuring charge of about £10 million.

Meanwhile, losses will continue — both the Cardiff and Kent steel production centres are trading at a loss — before ASW turns the corner later this year. Then it should also benefit from an upturn in the steel market. Hold.



## COMMODITIES

**LIFFE**

**COCOA**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar | 830-825 | May | 936-933 |
| May | 835-834 | Jul | 952-948 |
| Jul | 850 BID | Sep | 958-962 |
| Sep | 869-865 | Dec | 992-988 |
| Dec | 894-890 | | |
| Mar | 916-914 | | Volume 13127 |

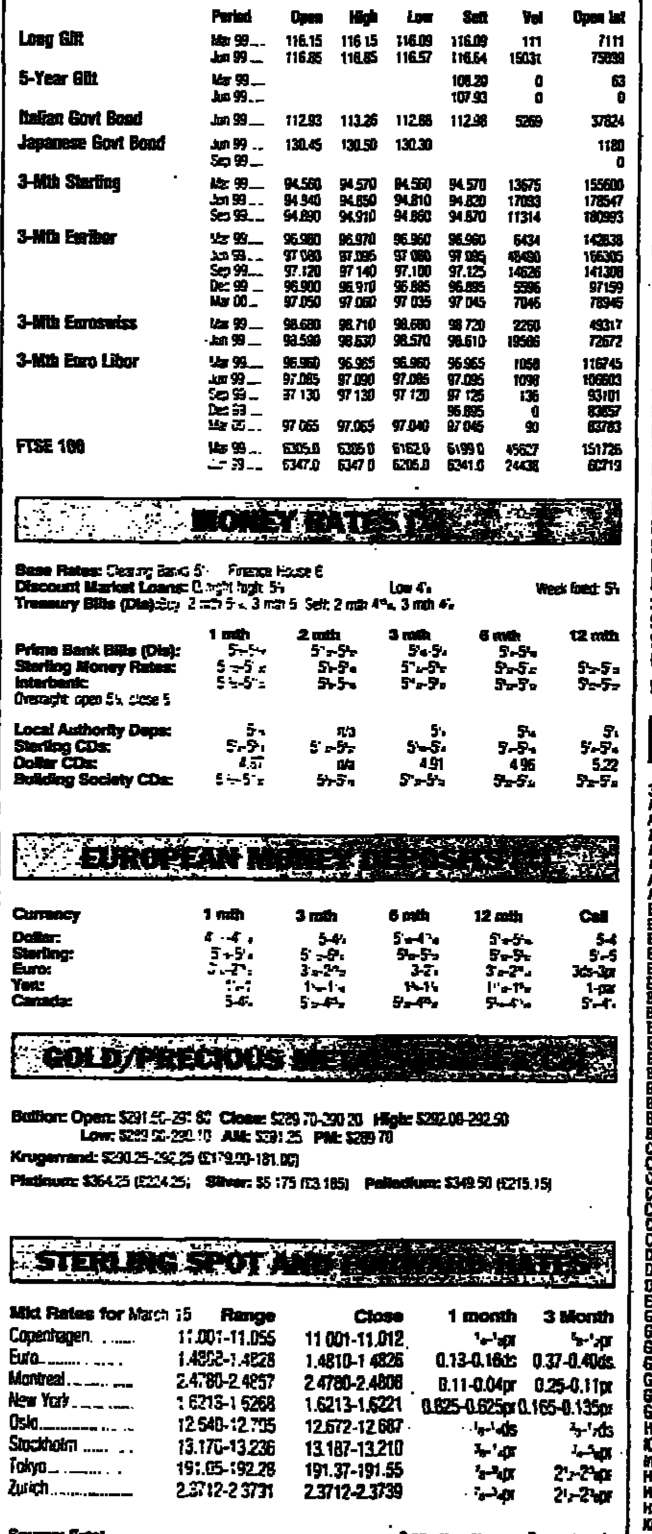
**ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)**

**CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Brent Physical | 12.30 | n/c |
| Brent 15 day (Apr) | 12.65 | -0.15 |
| Brent 15 day (May) | 12.70 | -0.15 |
| W Texas Intermediate (Apr) | 14.50 | -0.20 |
| W Texas Intermediate (May) | 14.55 | -0.15 |

**GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES**

| LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t) | | LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar | 74.75 | Mar | 73.00 |
| May | 76.50 | May | 74.00 |
| Jul | 78.25 | Sep | 74.75 |
| Sep | 77.00 | Nov | 77.00 |
| Nov | 79.00 | Jan | 79.00 |
| Volume: 305 | | Volume: 0 | |

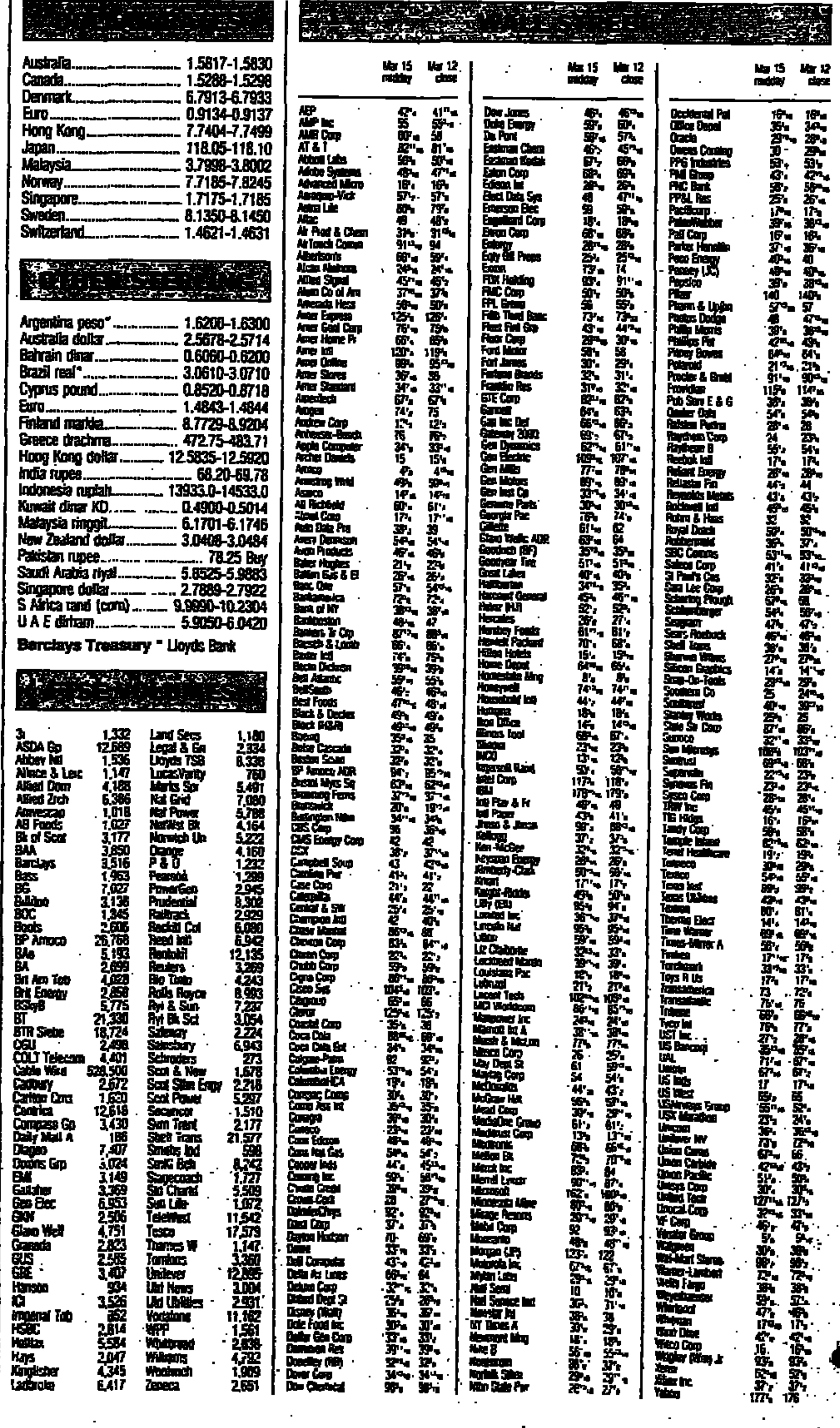


## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

| | Period | Open | High | Low | Sett | Vol | Open Int |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Long Gilt | Mar 99 | 116.15 | 116.15 | 116.09 | 116.09 | 111 | 7111 |
| | Jun 99 | 116.85 | 116.85 | 116.57 | 116.64 | 15031 | 75839 |
| 5-Year Gilt | Mar 99 | | | | 108.20 | 0 | 63 |
| | Jun 99 | | | | 107.93 | 0 | 0 |
| Italian Govt Bond | Jun 99 | 112.93 | 113.26 | 112.88 | 112.98 | 5269 | 37824 |
| Japanese Govt Bond | Jun 99 | 130.45 | 130.50 | 130.30 | | | 1180 |
| | Sep 99 | | | | | | 0 |
| 3-Mth Sterling | Mar 99 | 94.560 | 94.570 | 94.560 | 94.570 | 13675 | 155600 |
| | Jun 99 | 94.840 | 94.850 | 94.810 | 94.830 | 17093 | 178547 |
| | Sep 99 | 94.890 | 94.910 | 94.860 | 94.870 | 11314 | 180993 |
| 3-Mth Euribor | Mar 99 | 96.960 | 96.970 | 96.960 | 96.960 | 6434 | 142838 |
| | Jun 99 | 97.080 | 97.095 | 97.080 | 97.095 | 49490 | 166305 |
| | Sep 99 | 97.120 | 97.140 | 97.100 | 97.125 | 14526 | 141308 |
| | Dec 99 | 96.900 | 96.910 | 96.885 | 96.895 | 5596 | 97159 |
| | Mar 00 | 97.050 | 97.060 | 97.035 | 97.045 | 7046 | 78945 |
| 3-Mth Euroswiss | Mar 99 | 98.680 | 98.710 | 98.680 | 98.720 | 2250 | 49317 |
| | Jun 99 | 98.590 | 98.630 | 98.570 | 98.610 | 19586 | 72672 |
| 3-Mth Euro Libor | Mar 99 | 96.960 | 96.965 | 96.960 | 96.965 | 1058 | 116745 |
| | Jun 99 | 97.085 | 97.090 | 97.085 | 97.095 | 1098 | 106603 |
| | Sep 99 | 97.130 | 97.130 | 97.120 | 97.125 | 136 | 93101 |
| | Dec 99 | | | | 96.895 | 0 | 83657 |
| | Mar 00 | 97.065 | 97.065 | 97.040 | 97.045 | 90 | 63783 |
| FTSE 100 | Mar 99 | 6305.0 | 6305.0 | 6162.0 | 6199.0 | 45627 | 151726 |
| | Jun 99 | 6347.0 | 6347.0 | 6205.0 | 6241.0 | 24438 | 60719 |

## MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5½ Finance House 6
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5½ Low 4½ Week fixed: 5½
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5¼; 3 mth 5 Sell: 2 mth 4⅞; 3 mth 4⅞



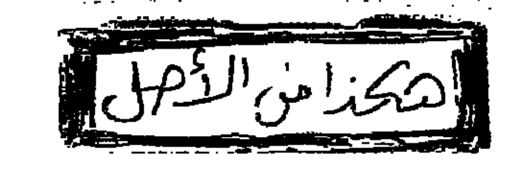
| | |
|---|---|
| Australia | 1.5817-1.5830 |
| Canada | 1.5288-1.5298 |
| Denmark | 6.7913-6.7933 |
| Euro | 0.9134-0.9137 |
| Hong Kong | 7.7404-7.7499 |
| Japan | 118.05-118.10 |
| Malaysia | 3.7998-3.8002 |
| Norway | 7.7185-7.8245 |
| Singapore | 1.7175-1.7185 |
| Sweden | 8.1350-8.1450 |
| Switzerland | 1.4621-1.4631 |

## OTHER STERLING

| | |
|---|---|
| Argentina peso* | 1.6200-1.6300 |
| Australia dollar | 2.5678-2.5714 |
| Bahrain dinar | 0.6060-0.6200 |
| Brazil real* | 3.0610-3.0710 |
| Cyprus pound | 0.8520-0.8718 |
| Euro | 1.4843-1.4844 |
| Finland markka | 8.7729-8.9204 |
| Greece drachma | 472.75-483.71 |
| Hong Kong dollar | 12.5835-12.5920 |
| India rupee | 68.20-69.78 |
| Indonesia rupiah | 13933.0-14533.0 |
| Kuwait dinar KD | 0.4900-0.5014 |
| Malaysia ringgit | 6.1701-6.1746 |
| New Zealand dollar | 3.0408-3.0484 |
| Pakistan rupee | 78.25 Buy |
| Saudi Arabia riyal | 5.8525-5.9883 |
| Singapore dollar | 2.7889-2.7922 |
| S Africa rand (com) | 9.9890-10.2304 |
| U A E dirham | 5.9050-6.0420 |

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3i | 1,332 | Land Secs | 1,180 |
| ASDA Gp | 12,689 | Legal & Gn | 2,334 |
| Abbey Nat | 1,536 | Lloyds TSB | 8,338 |
| Allnce & Leic | 1,147 | LucasVarity | 760 |
| Allied Dom | 4,188 | Marks Spr | 5,491 |
| Allied Zrch | 6,386 | Nat Grid | 7,080 |
| Amvescap | 1,018 | Nat Power | 5,798 |
| AB Foods | 1,027 | NatWst Bk | 4,164 |
| Bk of Scot | 3,177 | Norwich Un | 5,222 |
| BAA | 3,850 | Orange | 4,160 |
| Barclays | 3,516 | P & O | 1,232 |
| Bass | 1,963 | Pearson | 1,289 |
| BG | 7,027 | PowerGen | 2,945 |
| Billiton | 3,136 | Prudential | 8,302 |
| BOC | 1,345 | Railtrack | 2,929 |
| Boots | 2,606 | Reckitt Col | 6,080 |
| BP Amoco | 26,768 | Reed Intl | 6,942 |
| BAe | 5,193 | Rentokil | 12,135 |
| BA | 2,699 | Reuters | 3,269 |
| Brit Am Tob | 4,028 | Rio Tinto | 4,243 |
| Brit Energy | 2,858 | Rolls Royce | 8,993 |
| BSkyB | 5,775 | Ryl & Sun | 7,237 |
| BT | 21,330 | Ryl Bk Sct | 3,054 |
| BTR Siebe | 18,724 | Safeway | 2,224 |
| CGU | 2,498 | Sainsbury | 6,943 |
| COLT Telecom | 4,401 | Schroders | 273 |
| Cable Wire | 528,500 | Scot & New | 1,678 |
| Cadbury | 2,672 | Scot Ptn Engy | 2,218 |
| Carlton Cms | 1,620 | Scot Power | 5,297 |






# Germany is attempting to make U-turn in a cul-de-sac

## Membership of EMU has cut off the options for a much-needed devaluation

For socialists and environmentalists around the world, who dreamt of mounting a chalenge to the global hegemony of American free-market capitalism, the dream ended last Thursday. It did not end with the bang of the crashing Berlin Wall or the disintegrating Soviet Union. It ended with the whimper of the sudden, mysterious resignation of Germany's Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine.

Herr Lafontaine's resignation inspired a modest celebration on the Frankfurt stock exchange on Friday. But for once, the financial speculators could be accused of being too calm. A 5 per cent jump in Frankfurt's DAX index and a two cent appreciation of the euro hardly seemed to do justice to an event of such historic importance. Most analysts and businessmen are taking the undestandably sceptical view that one man's departure is not going to transform economic conditions in Germany, still less in the whole of Europe, and therefore that the cautious response seen in the markets since last Thursday is about right. This time, however, a bit more excitement seemed appropriate.

Herr Lafontaine's resignation was a truly historic event, at least comparable to the policy U-turn performed by France in 1983, when President Mitterrand abandoned his attempt to create "socialism in one country" by nationalising the banks and following a Keynesian policy of demand expansion. That U-turn laid the foundation for the European monetary union by creating a strong franc and squeezing French inflation to below the German level, at the cost of a fourfold increase in French unemployment. Mitterrand's decision to abandon socialism also triggered a surge in French share prices that overshadowed even the bull market on Wall Street. Today, the political, economic and financial consequences of Germany abandoning its even flirtation with "socialism in one country" could be every bit as dramatic as those of the French U-turn.

With Herr Lafontaine now not just gone, but completely discredited by his erratic behaviour, this campaign to create a new economic model that would offer Europe the benefits of global capitalism without the social upheavals and perceived injustices, will almost certainly collapse. Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, was always uncomfortable with the Lafontaine-Jospin leftist vision and hinted before the German election that he might *prefer to* form a "grand coalition" with the Christian Democrats, rather than building an anti-capitalist alliance with the radical Greens. Now that Herr Schröder has been unexpectedly released from his political obligations to the Left of his own party, he is likely to move back to a traditional business-friendly agenda almost indistinguishable from that of Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats. If anything, his attempts to make the German tax and regulatory systems more favourable to business and investment, are likely to be more successful than those of the Kohl Government, since he will not have to worry about parliamentary obstruction from the Left.

Why, then, is there so much scepticism about whether business conditions in Germany will really move towards the Anglo-Saxon capitalist model? There seem to be three possible answers.

The first is that even in the German business community, which will from now on call the shots in the Schröder Government, there are deep worries about the "excesses" of Anglo-Saxon free market economics. Big business in Germany has a strong interest in maintaining regulations, subsidies and tax preferences that protect *it from low-cost competition*. But the balance of opinion in the German business community is clearly moving away from regulation and towards freer markets. This is a more or less inevitable response to the pressures on German managers from international (mainly American) shareholders and competitors. For this reason, the pressures from big business in favour of American-style capitalism are bound to intensify and ultimately prevail. The recent demand from directors of DamilerChrysler that their salaries should be partly taxed under the US tax code is an amusing straw in the wind.

The second reason for scepticism about a German U-turn is that free market tax reform and deregulation are very long, painful and uncertain processes. It cannot be expected pay off for many years. Even where reform has been pursued with the zeal of a Thatcher or Reagan, it has taken ten to 15 years to deliver positive results in the form of higher growth and lower unemployment. Herr Schröder thus cannot hope to become a darling of the business community, or indeed of the voters, in the same way as Tony Blair. Mr Blair's policies are popular *and economically successful* because they are building on the foundations laid by the now-hated Tories. But Herr Schröder will have to take responsibility for unpopular Thatcherite policies himself.

He will have to resist strikes, to cut wages, to break professional and business monopolies, to cut public spending programmes and to redistribute the tax burden from investment and employment on to the income and consumption taxes paid by ordinary voters. Obviously the German Government is unlikely to mover very fast in pursuing such a Thatcherite agenda, especially if Herr Schröder *is determined to stick to* a consensus-based tripartite approach. However, the direction of motion should be clear and Germany starts from a much more favourable position than did Britain in 1979. Its labour relations and management are excellent. Many of its industries are strong. Most importantly, Herr Schröder could enjoy a much more favourable macroeconomic environment than the one that faced Margaret Thatcher in 1979 and President Reagan in 1980.

This leads to the third big question about the German U-turn: what affect will it have on macroeconomic policy? The *most important problem* facing the German economy today is not about regulation, competition or tax reform. It is the macroeconomic problem illustrated in the top chart. Germany's labour costs are far out of line with international competition — 50 per cent above the Amercian and French levels and almost twice as high as in Britain, notwithstanding the supposedly overvalued pound. Some of the dire effects of these uncompetitive costs are illustrated in the charts below. Germany, far from being an export "powerhouse", can no longer hold its own in world markets. In terms of export performance, as measured by the OECD's ratio of export growth to the growth of export markets, Germany has lagged far behind America and signicantly behind the rest of Europe in 11 out of the past 13 years (see middle chart). And even the surprisingly weak figures on Germany's export performance have been deceptively flattering. Most of Germany's exports are produced by capital-intensive industries on the basis of costs already sunk into existing factories. When it comes to new investment, Germany's lack of competitiveness is even more striking. This is illustrated in the bottom chart, which shows that Germany has received virtually no foreign investment in the last decade. Uniquely among the OECD countries, Germany actually suffered a net outflow of foreign investment in each of the last two years.

From a macroeconomic perspective, all of these figures add up to a simple and clear conclusion. Germany desperately needs a devaluation to bring its costs into line with competitor countries. But herein lies Germany's real economic conundrum. By joining EMU, Germany has closed off the option of devaluing against France, Italy and the rest of Europe. To make matters worse, it has created a structure that limits inflation in the rest of Europe and therefore makes it impossible for German industry to regain its competitiveness by keeping its inflation significantly below its neighbours.

This leaves Germany with two options: to persuade the whole of Europe to devalue against the dollar, yen and pound; or to shift its industrial structure to rely far more on domestic consumption and non-tradeable services than on exports for future growth. Herr Lafontaine, to his credit, appeared to understand this counsundrum, which was why he pressured so hard for expansionary monetary policies from the European Central Bank. Ironically, of course, the ECB was least likely to deliver these policies under the overt hectoring from Herr Lafontaine.

The most important question for Germany and Europe today is whether the ECB will move towards and expansionary policy now that Herr Lafontaine is gone. If it does, the German U-turn could turn out to be surprisingly successful. If it does not, Germany and the rest of Europe will be doomed to a period of economic and social dislocation which will convince many more Germans that Herr Lafontaine's forebodings *about free markets* and capitalism were right after all.

**WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE GERMAN ECONOMY?**

**HOURLY LABOUR COSTS IN MANUFACTURING***
*1997 averages updated by 5 March, 1999 exchange rates
US=100
160 140 120 100 80 60 40 20 0
Germany Switzerland Japan Netherlands US France UK Spain
Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics

**EXPORT PERFORMANCE***
*% change in ratio of growth of export volumes to growth of export markets
US EUROPEAN UNION GERMANY
6 4 2 0 -2 -4 -6 -8 -10
1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998
Source: OECD Economic Outlook, Dec 1998

**INFLOWS OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT**
(£bn)
FRANCE UK GERMANY
40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0 -5
1986-91 avg 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997
Source: UNCTAD World Investment Report 1998

# Why many women are slipping through the Net

Meg Ryan may, or may not, be a role model for many women in this country. But, by romancing Tom Hanks across the Internet in her latest film, *You've Got Mail*, she has shown she has something that 83 per cent of British women do not have. No, I'm not talking about a cute little nose that wrinkles up when she smiles: I'm talking about confidence when purchasing products to access the Internet.

According to a new study by James Murphy, an independent analyst formerly of The Henley Centre, there is a massive gap between women's interest in new technology and their confidence when they think about buying it.

The study, published this week by marketing services firm Cohn & Wolfe and called *Women & Technology: the challenge for marketeers*, quizzed 1,000 adults, 570 of whom were female. It found that, while 38 per cent of women said they were either quite or very interested in Internet products, only 17 per cent felt confident enough to purchase them. This compares with only 31 per cent of men saying they were interested in Internet access yet 48 per cent saying they would feel confident in buying the services.

This pattern is repeated with personal computers. While 53 per cent of women were interested in buying a PC, only 31 per cent felt they would be happy to go into a shop and buy one. For men 60 per cent were interested in PCs, and 50 per cent said they'd be quite happy popping into PC World.

So why are there these discrepancies? Do woman naturally find it difficult to choose between Yahoo and Excite, do they not know their Compaqs from their Dells or are they confused as to whether they have to throw out their Pentium processors when the Pentium II or Pentium III turns up? Or is it that the IT companies are not taking enough time to communicate with one half of the population?

The evidence that it could be the latter comes from other questions asked by Murphy. For example, 56 per cent of women are interested in buying a mobile phone and 54 per cent would feel confident enough to buy one. For kitchen appliances — the interest figure is 70 per cent and the confidence figure is 80 per cent. Is there that much difference between buying a PC and buying a fridge-freezer?

The simple fact is that most IT firms do not bother to try to win over the female customer. *Most adverts for computer* products tend to feature men (interestingly, the IT firms are perhaps more racially aware than almost any other sector, so there is a high proportion of Asian or Afro-Caribbean men featured). They tend to be placed in publications aimed at the men's market — so you might find PC ads in *GQ* or *FHM* but you would be lucky if you spotted any in *Vogue* or *Cosmopolitan*.

Yet, as Murphy argues: "You do not have to be Germaine Greer to spot the sea change in women's professional life, buying power and position in society over the past 15 to 20 years. IT firms *might be at the cutting edge* in technology, but in their marketing many are dangerously out of date."




Take the marketing for mobile phones. Nokia has been incredibly successful, partially because it has made its mobile phones a fashion accessory. The latest silver Nokia, which was such a hit over Christmas, is designed to slip into a handbag between a lipstick and a purse.

In computers French compa-

MARKET LEADER

nies have long realised the importance of women in their market — as is shown by the France Telecom advert below which shows a woman in a professional environment rarely shown in the UK. Alcatel has long had a range of different colours and designs for its IT products. Apple is one of the few computer-makers to start thinking about the look of its products and its new iMac was recently described by a feminist writer as "curvaceous, sexy-looking machines". Steve Jobs, Apple's founder, says that the most important *question in* marketing products (which used to come in any shade of beige you liked) is now "what is your favourite colour".

Of course, marketing effectively to women involves much more than selling the computer in green or red. But IT firms now have to realise that to sell their products they need to work a little bit harder.

□ AS the International Olympic Committee scandal rolls on, what will happen to the sponsors is becoming more of an issue. Juan Antonio Samaranch's intransigence about sacking many of the IOC or resigning himself has angered quite a few of the lead sponsors.

But are they angry enough to drop the sponsorship? Coca-Cola and United Parcel Service look like they might walk away — arguing that there is no benefit from them being associated with a "tarnished brand". John Hancock, the US insurance firm, and Visa International have asked leading sports sponsorship firms to look at alternatives — the football World Cup being one of the most obvious beneficiaries.

However, these high moral stances have been tempered by one nagging question: will a competitor step in and pick up a high-profile sponsorship at a bargain price? How can morals win when pitted against commerce?

*jason.nisse@the-times.co.uk*

Professionnels.

Demandez-nous...de vous regarder téléphoner pour choisir le contrat le plus avantageux.




L'analyse de votre facture téléphonique nous permettra de vous aider à choisir le Contrat Professionnel et les offres tarifaires les plus adaptés

France Telecom

French adverts are in tune with attracting female customers



# Flight of fancy

IF ALL goes well, it will be 15 years between the day that someone peered out over some land west of London and said "hey, why don't we put the thing there?" and the first plane taking off from Terminal Five. A decade and a half. How long do you think it would have taken the French?

Anyway, I hear well-connected voices within BAA who believe that the whole project is past its sell-by date. They say the terminal ceased to make economic sense four years ago, which, coincidentally enough, is when the public inquiry that ends this week first began.

The £1.8 billion construction cost will have to be borrowed, and the worry is that the cost, as such building work tends to, will shoot through the roof and the project will never finance itself.

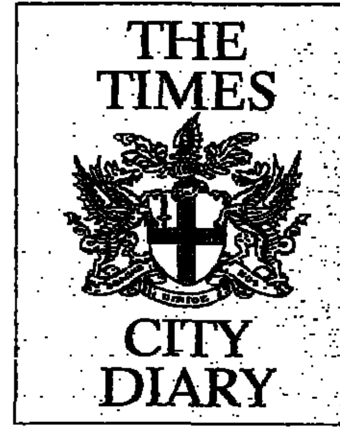
Most such big capital projects have in the past been built with help from the Government: that is, you and me. The only possible comparison is with Eurotunnel, which is not a parallel BAA is keen to explore.

Des Wilson at the company insists that BAA intends to finish the terminal in 2006, and that the numbers add up. But he admits that BAA is reserving a fall-back position if they don't. "What is true is that we may have to take to the regulator and to the airlines about some sort of Terminal Five surcharge." And what if the regulator refuses?




"Have you noticed that it's always the Germans who sell their stake first"

*WILLIAM HAGUE is not inclined to be magnanimous to fallen enemies. Presenting an award at the London Press Club to* The Guardian *for the story that brought down Peter Mandelson, the Tory leader commented: "After the Labour Party spend years passing the cheque around from Robert Maxwell, he was the one left holding it when the music stopped."*




## Bargain bin

RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Group insists a sale of its deeply unloved Our Price chain will take place despite the departure of Prudential's venture capital arm after a row over price. The best bet seems to be a sale to the management, backed by the usual venture capital suspects.

This is despite industry observers who say the stores are too small and have too limited a range of stock.

So I wonder if potential buyers have got as far as page 257 in Branson's autobiography, *Losing My Virginity*. He talks about the move to set up megastores with a much wider range, a business that Virgin, strangely, is retaining when it sells the smaller Our Price stores.

"We knew that small record shops did not make enough money; they just attracted passers-by who were disappointed by the lack of depth of stock."

## Pension surplus

THE departure of Red Oskar Lafontaine from the German Finance Ministry will be followed automatically by that of his two deputies. But this casual act of Teutonic brutality will not greatly impact on their lifestyles.

One, Claus Noé, is 60 and will be shuffled into early retirement, on a pension of £52,000 a year. The other, Heiner Flassbeck, 48, gets 75 per cent of his salary, or just short of £60,000, for the next five years and a pension of £36,000 thereafter.

I am told this is the normal way of doing things in Germany and has attracted little attention there.

*ANDERSEN CONSULTING, readers may recall, has this marvellous concierge service for its staff. Some flunky will look after your dog or pick up your mum from the airport while you are working 27 hours a day. I hear of the most obscure request yet.*

*Andersen had some people working in Helsinki in late January who wanted to celebrate Burns Night. The Finns not regarding a sheep's stomach stuffed with who knows what as fit for human consumption, the consultants contacted the London office, and a half dozen haggises were flown out forthwith.*

## Driven away

JEROME BELL, a currency broker at Cantor Fitzgerald, will today receive the keys to a new Mercedes Benz A-Class, which he won in a raffle for the charity Children in Crisis.

They are being handed over at Cantor's offices by the Duchess of York. Now, don't be unkind. Will he be driving it to work? No, his wife Rosemary has collared it. So you win an expensive Merc and promptly hand it over to your wife? "Basically, yes."

MARTIN WALLER

*city.diary@the-times.co.uk*



Raffle prize for one lucky City trader — or his wife



| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ACM INVESTMENTS LTD** | | | | |
| 0171 478 0100 | | | | |
| Short Dtd Gilt | 138.90 | 140.40 | .. | |
| US Govt Bd (US$) | 0.8461 | 0.8660 | + 0.07 | |
| Gilt Income | 56.50 | 56.46 | + 0.03 | 5.40 |
| Gilt Growth | 100.40 | 102.00 | + 0.10 | |
| Sterling Bond | 55.91 | 56.91† | .. | 5.50 |
| **AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD** | | | | |
| 0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7888 | | | | |
| **Protected Funds** | | | | |
| UK Safeguard | 147.35 | 157.03 | + 0.16 | |
| -do- NAV to Jun 19 | 140.39 | 140.39 | | |
| UK Equity Safeguard | 116.83 | 124.96 | - 1.31 | 2.02 |
| -do- NAV to Mar 19 | 110.98 | 110.98 | | |
| US Eqy Safeguard | 97.78 | 103.87 | + 0.61 | |
| Cash | 954.51 | 959.28 | .. | 6.25 |
| **UK Growth Funds** | | | | |
| UK Equity Gen | 443.97 | 472.30 | - 8.35 | 1.80 |
| UK Small Cos | 95.61 | 102.75 | - 0.80 | 0.50 |
| FTSE 250 Index | 113.49 | 121.30 | - 0.49 | 1.89 |
| Geared UK Index | #25.497 | #26.916 | - 0.74 | 3.75 |
| **Income Funds** | | | | |
| Corp Bd | 87.88 | 90.75 | + 0.19 | 6.66 |
| Monthly Inc | 43.93 | 46.99† | + 0.01 | 7.98 |
| **International Funds** | | | | |
| American Gen | 393.70 | 416.26 | + 2.56 | 0.17 |
| American Strat | 174.58 | 186.29 | - 2.87 | |
| JG US Index | #30.398 | #32.026 | - 0.17 | 4.50 |
| European Gen | 446.16 | 471.89 | - 0.77 | |
| European Strat | 208.24 | 221.59 | + 0.80 | . |
| Japan Gen | 115.49 | 121.84 | + 2.50 | |
| Asia Pacific | 65.40 | 68.75 | + 1.08 | 1.09 |
| Pacific Strat | 91.35 | 97.70 | + 1.23 | |
| Greater China | 150.92 | 161.41 | + 1.86 | . |
| Latin America | 61.85 | 66.08 | - 0.13 | |
| Intl Growth | 200.66 | 214.16 | - 1.50 | 0.11 |
| Balanced Europe | 187.39 | 194.19 | + 1.21 | 2.10 |
| Global Strategy | 49.89 | 52.20 | + 0.17 | . |
| **AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS** | | | | |
| 01203 553 231 | | | | |
| AXA Equity & Law Unit Trst | | | | |
| Balanced Acc | 85.45 | 90.91 | - 0.81 | 1.67 |
| Balanced Inc | 76.77 | 81.67 | - 0.73 | 1.67 |
| Brit Excel | 136.70 | 145.40 | - 2.70 | 2.19 |
| Brit Fndmtls Acc | 172.30 | 183.20† | - 3.30 | 3.93 |
| Brit Fndmtls Inc | 105.30 | 112.10† | - 1.49 | 3.93 |
| Europe | 575.50 | 612.20† | - 1.70 | 0.77 |
| General Acc | 1015.00 | 1079.00† | - 19.00 | 2.38 |

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD** | | | | |
| 01707 022 100 | | | | |
| Can Gen Dist | 330.5[illegible] | | | |
| -do- Income Dist | 181.8[illegible] | | | |
| -do- Accum | 625.8[illegible] | | | |
| Gilt & Fxd Int | 47.8[illegible] | | | |
| Growth Units | 358.1[illegible] | | | |
| Bond | 202.2[illegible] | | | |
| Intl Growth | 277.9[illegible] | | | |
| North American | 431.7[illegible] | | | |
| Far East | 173.7[illegible] | | | |
| UK Smaller Cos | 287.5[illegible] | | | |
| European | 139.9[illegible] | | | |
| Japanese Growth | 31.5[illegible] | | | |
| High Income | 316.6[illegible] | | | |
| **CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGT LTD** | | | | |
| 0181 831 7400 Enq 0181 83[illegible] | | | | |
| American & Gen | 304.7[illegible] | | | |
| European Inc | 154.40 | | | |
| Smaller Cos (4-1) | 117.80 | | | |
| Growth | 782.3[illegible] | | | |
| Income & Growth # | 619.80 | | | |
| -do- Accum # | 1025.78 | | | |
| Japan & Gen | 58.04 | | | |
| Hallmark Grth | 1781.00 | | | |
| -do- Accum | 2267.00 | | | |
| Special Sits | 180.00 | | | |
| High Yield | 2034.00 | | | |
| **CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD** | | | | |
| 0171 606 0708 | | | | |
| Cazenove Portfolio | 128.77 | | | |
| American Portfolio | 208.56 | | | |
| European Portfolio | 221.97 | | | |
| High Income | 59.43 | | | |
| Japanese Portfolio | 60.06 | | | |
| Pacific Portfolio | 107.01 | | | |
| UK Equity | 130.45 | | | |
| UK Equity & Bd | 74.57 | | | |
| UK Smlr Cos | 53.20 | | | |
| **CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS** | | | | |
| 0171 588 1815 | | | | |
| Inv Fd Inc | 1090.93 | | | |
| Inv Fd Acc | 1172.10 | | | |
| Fxd Int Sec Inc | 174.81 | | | |
| Fxd Int Sec Acc | 204.97 | | | |

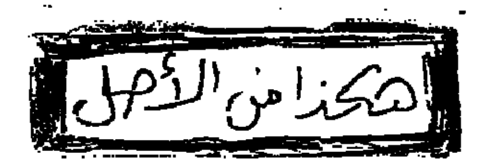
| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Telecoms | 95.35 | 101.26 | - 0.21 | |
| **JUPITER UT MGRS LTD** | | | | |
| 0171 581 3020 | | | | |
| Income # | 336.10 | 357.54 | - 1.33 | 3.11 |
| UK Growth | 125.65 | 133.66 | - 1.29 | 1.16 |
| Ecology | 127.32 | 135.43 | - 0.46 | 0.32 |
| European | 311.06 | 330.97 | + 1.30 | 0.19 |
| Far Eastern | 330.40 | 351.40 | + 0.80 | .. |
| UK Special Sits | 76.67 | 81.77 | - 0.91 | 0.24 |
| Fd of Inv Tsts | 62.56 | 66.72 | - 0.15 | |
| High Income # | 71.41 | 76.16 | - 0.47 | 3.94 |
| Financial Opps | 82.30 | 87.78 | + 0.09 | 0.69 |
| Growth & Income # | 57.14 | 60.93 | - 1.09 | 2.13 |
| Global Opps | 57.80 | 61.60† | - 0.36 | 0.71 |

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK Equity # | 84.70 | 89.60 | - 1.50 | 3.11 |
| -do- Accum # | 250.20 | 264.80 | - 4.40 | 3.11 |
| UK Growth | 1663.20 | 1758.80 | - 20.30 | 1.39 |
| -do- Accum | 1908.50 | 2016.50 | - 23.30 | 1.39 |
| **MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD** | | | | |
| Dealing: 01277 281 610 Enq: 01903 204 631 | | | | |
| European Growth | 165.76 | 176.34 | - 0.91 | 0.19 |
| Intl Bond | 64.43 | 67.67 | + 0.58 | 2.82 |
| Intl Equity Growth | 120.16 | 127.48 | + 0.23 | 0.29 |
| N Amer Growth | 223.96 | 237.44† | - 0.90 | 0.22 |
| Special Sits Growth | 42.19 | 44.88† | - 0.44 | 1.12 |
| UK Growth | 691.09 | 735.20 | - 7.80 | 1.49 |
| -do- Accum | 993.89 | 1057.32 | - 11.37 | 1.49 |



| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MGMT** | | | | |
| 0171 558 3800 | | | | |
| Bridge Income # | 420.35 | 447.18 | - 5.82 | 4.44 |
| Eur Growth | 151.21 | 160.86 | .. | 0.49 |
| Inc & Growth # | 108.16 | 115.06 | - 1.46 | 2.82 |
| Smaller Cos | 125.86 | 133.89 | + 1.36 | 1.45 |
| Ever Spec Sit Inc | 59.60 | 63.40 | + 0.41 | 2.30 |
| Ever Spec Sit Acc | 64.27 | 68.37 | + 0.46 | 2.30 |
| Permnt Growth | 60.76 | 64.64 | + 0.59 | 1.36 |
| **LAZARD UNIT TST MGRS LTD** | | | | |
| Dealing: 0870 6060406 | | | | |
| UK Cap | 633.10 | 671.70† | - 10.81 | 1.26 |
| UK Inc/Gth # | 686.10 | 730.73† | - 12.66 | 3.05 |

| | Sell | Buy | +/- | Yld % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **M&W JOINT INVESTORS LTD** | | | | |
| 01628 825087 | | | | |
| Balanced Fd # | 1582.40 | 1606.80† | .. | 2.80 |
| Income # | 1318.60 | 1338.20† | .. | 3.80 |
| **MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD** | | | | |
| 0131 222 4242 | | | | |
| Maldon General | 219.30 | 224.30 | .. | 2.79 |
| **MOUNIER INVESTMENT MGMT LTD** | | | | |
| 0171 815 7070 | | | | |
| Growth Fd Acc | 102.50 | 109.35 | + 0.80 | 0.84 |



# Equities close above worst levels

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

## BANKS

## BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

## BUILDING MATERIALS

## CHEMICALS

## CONSTRUCTION

## DISTRIBUTORS

## DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

## ELECTRICITY

## ELECTRONIC & ELECT

## ENGINEERING

## ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

## FOOD MANUFACTURERS

## HEALTHCARE

## HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

## INSURANCE

## INVESTMENT TRUSTS

| High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 215 | 131 | Herald | 215 | + 1 | 0.4 | ... |
| 133¾ | 94½ | High Income 7† | 111¼ | | 7.2 | 14.3 |
| 196½ | 112½ | H&S UK Smllr† | 148 | - ½ | 3.0 | ... |
| 214½ | 153½ | Inv Capt | 201½ | - 1 | 3.6 | 34.1 |
| 97 | 30¾ | Int Biotech | 46 | | | |
| 59½ | 27 | INVESCO Asia | 47¾ | - ¾ | 1.7 | 45.0 |
| 217½ | 108 | INVESCO Eng Intl | 140½ | | 1.6 | ... |
| 45¾ | 21½ | INVESCO Jap Dis | 45 | | | |
| 63½ | 22¾ | INVESCO Korea | 63¾ | + 1 | .. | .. |
| 33¼ | 19 | INVESCO Tokyo | 29 | + ¼ | .. | |
| 129½ | 67 | JF Fledg Jap | 129½ | + 2¾ | .. | ... |
| 244 | 135 | J Fry Euro U | 240½ | - 1½ | 3.1 | 35.1 |
| 158½ | 65½ | J Fry Util† | 145 | - 2¼ | 4.8 | 17.4 |
| 95½ | 79½ | J Fry Util Incl | 85 | - ¼ | 8.2 | 61.6 |
| 150 | 116½ | Jupiter Ex Inc | 142 | - ¼ | 6.9 | 17.8 |
| 43½ | 17½ | Jupiter Ex IncWt | 39 | + 1½ | .. | |
| 180½ | 127½ | Jupiter Intl Grn | 144 | + 1 | 3.6 | |
| 872½ | 518 | Jupiter Primart | 840 | - 2½ | 1.0 | .. |
| 190½ | 150½ | Kiwet Eng | 189 | | ... | .. |
| 222½ | 89 | Korea Euro | 207¾ | + 1½ | 0.6 | .. |
| 1288 | 907½ | Law Debenture† | 1136 | + 3½ | 3.3 | 30.9 |
| 125½ | 107 | Life Off Opp | 125½ | | ... | ... |
| 161½ | 92 | Lloyds Sm Cap | 123½ | | | |
| 22 | 13¾ | Lloyds Sm Dwt | 14¼ | + 1½ | | |
| 178 | 105½ | Lloyds Sm Pkgt | 138 | + 1½ | 3.9 | |
| 217½ | 171½ | Lon St Lawrence | 213½ | .. | 4.1 | 27.6 |

## LEISURE & HOTELS

| High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 43¾ | 12½ | Queens Moat | 26¼ | - ¼ | | 5.1 |
| 421 | 181 | Rank Grp† | 247 | - 8 | 7.8 | 10.2 |
| 49 | 25 | Regal Hotel | 26 | | 6.5 | .. |
| 84½ | 49½ | Ryan Hotels IE | 57½ | | 4.2 | 9.8 |
| 51½ | 17 | Sheffield United | 18½ | | | |
| 252½ | 102½ | Sinclair (Wm)† | 113½ | - 3 | 9.5 | 9.4 |
| 80½ | 37½ | Southampton | 39 | | 3.2 | 4.2 |
| 178 | 79½ | Stakis† | 174 | - 3½ | 1.9 | 21.7 |
| 343 | 250½ | Stanley Leisure | 278½ | | 2.2 | 15.9 |
| 10 | 2 | Tandem | 2¾ | | | |
| 346 | 346 | Tanggo† | 346 | | 1.0 | 45.3 |
| 250½ | 102½ | Thistle Hotels | 159 | + 3 | 3.1 | 13.2 |
| 200 | 106 | Thomson Travel | 178 | + 3 | 1.8 | 18.7 |
| 87 | 59 | Tottenhm Hot | 86 | + 3½ | 0.4 | |
| 108 | 45 | Waterfall | 63 | | 0.4 | 14.7 |
| 412½ | 284½ | Wembley | 345½ | .. | 1.4 | 9.0 |
| 162½ | 104½ | Zeuers Gp | 127½ | - 3 | 9.3 | 8.4 |

## MEDIA

| High | Low | Company | Price (p) | +/- | Yld % | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 179½ | 110½ | Adscenet | 154½ | .. | 8.3 | 15.8 |

## MINING

## OIL & GAS

## OTHER FINANCIAL

## PHARMACEUTICALS

## PRINTING & PAPER

## PROPERTY

## RETAILERS, FOOD

## RETAILERS, GENERAL

## SUPPORT SERVICES

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

## TRANSPORT

## WATER

## ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET



## BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED



# Spring's dealers put West End gloss on objets d'art

**Joseph Connolly** previews the fair that sets a high note for the rest of the season

A fire screen depicting Salisbury Cathedral, to be shown in the papier mâché exhibition

The annual Bada antiques fair, which begins tomorrow at the Duke of York's Headquarters off the Kings Road, West London, is for me one of the first indications that spring is finally here.

Possibly it is the way that the March sunshine illuminates those spectacular marquees. Maybe it is the topiary-strewn approach, or the dealers' lavishness with daffodils, and their penchant for setting off lovingly waxed furniture with generous bowls of oranges and lemons. Either way, visitors always approach the British Antique Dealers' Association bash with enthusiasm.

The layout of the fair, spacious but comprehensible, plays a part, but it is the quality and diversity of the pieces on show that count.

About 90 dealers from all over the country exhibit examples of their best stock, representing every field of collecting — furniture (always a strong showing, and this year particularly so), fine art, ceramics, glass, prints, jewellery, textiles, clocks and silver. Prices range from about £50 to dizzy heights.

At the more elevated level, Norman Adams is showing — among the customary excellent selection of English 18th-century furniture — a fine burr maple and rosewood bureau bookcase, exceptional for several reasons. The maple is stained to resemble tortoiseshell and carries highly unusual pewter stringing, but most importantly it bears the label of the noted cabinetmaker John Coxed. The bookcase was made around 1710 and is offered at somewhere between £150,000 and £200,000. More affordably, Adams also has a charming mahogany two-tier dumb waiter (c.1790), each swivelling tier having two pull-down flaps — about £10,000. John Bly is bringing some similarly gorgeous things — notably a half-circle commode table by John Linnell (c.1785) made of mahogany and inlaid with exotic woods in the classical manner — yours for £135,000. Also desirable is a rare Queen Anne bureau — an oak carcass covered in tortoiseshell lacquer and chinoiserie priced £68,000 from Alistair Sampson. He also has a very strong showing of English pottery this year — Delft, creamware, Staffordshire, Saltglaze and more — at prices ranging from £200 to several thousands.

> 'Prices range from £50 to dizzy heights'

And for the walls, how about some rare maps and prints from The O'Shea Gallery? Particularly pleasing is a pair of Hogarth engravings (£850) depicting a seduction scene — before and after. There will also be a good selection of John Speed's ever-popular county maps from £250 upwards. More spectacular is a set of 12 beautifully coloured oriental rice paper paintings depicting various exotic flowers. These are mid-19th century Cantonese and are offered at £5,000 for the set.

There is, as ever, a plethora of wonderful, smaller decorative items — an unusually large and magnificent richly gilded pot-pourri was the first to catch my eye. Made by Mason's around 1815, it is 18 inches wide, 10 inches high, and lovely in every way — £1,350 from Janice Paull, who is also bringing a good collection of Ironstone dated between 1800 and 1850, from about £60 to £8,000.

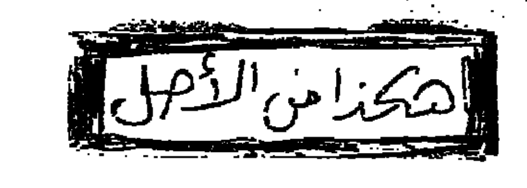
As to watches and jewellery, the visitor is somewhat spoilt for choice. Particularly impressive is an extraordinary diamond and sapphire Art Nouveau brooch by Boucheron (1900) in the form of a cicada — a rare piece from Sandra Cronan at £75,000. More affordable is a very ornate gold and enamel fob watch by Patek Philippe (c.1890) — the protective outer repoussé case opens to reveal an intricate enamelled theme depicting two cherubs set with diamonds; £8,500 from Somlo Antiques, which is also bringing a great collection of wristwatches by makers such as Rolex and Cartier from the Twenties to the Sixties at prices from £2,500 upwards.

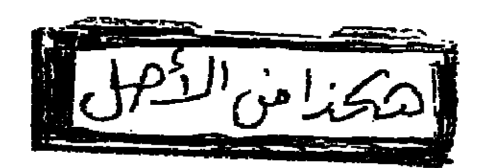
Another delight is the fair's annual attendant exhibition. This year it focuses on the finest 100 years of decorative papier mâché from 1772 to 1872. This versatile material became enormously fashionable and was applied to just about every domestic item you can think of.

About 40 prime items are on exhibition, and around ten dealers will be offering examples for sale: J Collins of Bideford has an ink stand (c.1860) at £850, David Gibbins Antiques is offering a rare and extraordinary balloon clock, around 1810, at £16,500, and Rupert Gentle Antiques has, for £2,500, a very decorative collection of Spill vases covered in oriental birds and flowers. Not to be missed either are the "Masterclasses", unique to Bada, where more can be learnt about the history of dining habits, samplers, wine antiques, ceramics and papier mâché.

● *The Bada Antiques and Fine Arts Fair is at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road, London, SW3 from March 17 to 23. Entry, £10 single, £15 double to include a re-entry pass and the Bada Yearbook. Call 0171-730 6730.*











# LEGAL APPOINTMENTS






## What is the big deal?

**Contracts Officer** — **Cambridge**

PA Consulting Group offers a wider range of capability than any other major consulting firm - and that includes the ability to actually develop new products and processes for our clients. At the Global Technology Centre in Melbourn, we have created everything from the widgets in beer cans and revolutionary drug inhalers to a new generation of mobile communications technologies. We do many different things, but *everything* we do is calculated to boost the value and performance of our clients' businesses.

World-class expertise in science and technology is only part of the success story. Encapsulating the business agreement reached with each client and supplier in a legally enforceable contract is an essential part of our professional, commercial process. Joining our fast-growing Commercial Group, you will be working alongside our consulting staff on the negotiation and closure of sophisticated contracts with clients and suppliers covering non-disclosure, sale, purchase and licence arrangements. It's not all front-end work either: you will log and monitor live contracts from execution to successful delivery.

You will also be a champion of best commercial practice for the contractual process.

Preferably a graduate from a technology or legal background, you must have a sound knowledge of commercial and contract law gained through at least two years' hands-on experience in the negotiation and management of contracts. Attention to detail, assured drafting skills, flexibility and a cool head under pressure are all essential; an understanding of IP management would be a strong advantage.

For enthusiastic team players who want to make things happen, we offer a great deal. A highly competitive salary is backed up by a bonus scheme which is linked directly to individual performance - plus the opportunity to accumulate shares in the business. If this sounds like your kind of deal, please write with a full cv to Michelle Keeley, Ref: CO/TL/03, PA Consulting Group, Cambridge Technology Centre, Melbourn, Herts SG8 6DP.
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- UK and EC competition law;
- other EC and regulatory issues;
- joint ventures;
- agency, distribution and franchising agreements; and
- a range of other commercial agreements.

Two opportunities have arisen in our team in Manchester, one at the 2-4 and the other at the 4+ year qualified level. Both positions require:-

- excellent drafting, negotiating and client handling skills and experience;
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- a sound knowledge of contract law, sale of goods legislation and UK and EC competition law;
- drive, energy and enthusiasm;
- the ability to work well as part of a team.

If you have the skill mix which we seek and are at a leading regional or City firm or an in-house legal department, we would like to hear from you.

For more information in complete confidence, please contact **Andrew Russell** or **Jeanie Mills** at **ZMB North** on **0161 238 4908** (07979 900911 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Portland Tower, Portland Street, Manchester, M1 3LE Confidential fax 0161 238 4910
E-mail andrew.russell@zarakgroup.com




**CORPORATE TAX** — **£TOP CITY+**
This US based firm with one of the largest international practices is seeking an impressive tax lawyer of up to 4 years' pqe to join its London office. Working in conjunction with the firm's other departments, the work will encompass a broad range of corporate, structured finance and technology related applications as well as high quality crossborder work. If you have the enthusiasm and ability to make your mark, this could be for you. (Ref. [illegible])

**CAPITAL MARKETS/BANKING** — **TO £65,000**
This premier City firm is seeking a [illegible] and flexible lawyer between 1-5 years' pqe to join its capital markets group to undertake a range of banking as well as capital markets work, both on an advisory and transactional basis. The ideal candidate will have an excellent intellectual ability with an interest in broadening their skills in both areas. An opportunity not to be missed. (Ref. 26025)

**ENERGY** — **TO £58,000**
Firmly established as having one of the best international energy practices, this top City firm can boast expertise across the full range of power projects. Energy lawyers with 2-4 years' experience will broaden their horizons here. In the last year the firm has worked on oil and gas, electricity and mining projects in the US, Far East and Central Europe as well as some the the most exciting UK deals. Unrivalled training and first rate salary. (Ref. 25991)

**PROPERTY** — **TO £50,000**
This renowned City practice continues to be a popular choice for first rate lawyers across the range of specialties. The strength of their property practice is well known and their property lawyers enthuse about the breadth of their work, acting on an ongoing basis for, among others, major City institutions and development boards. With 0-5 years' experience, your career will take off in this terrific working environment. (Ref. 25859)

**BANKING** — **FROM £40,000**
Highly commercial medium-sized firm seeks an ambitious banking assistant to join its existing team working for top-quality, long established clients. You will be a team player, commercially aware and have at least 2 years' experience of assisting on financial transactions, whether it be acquisition, asset or project based. Excellent career prospects beckon. (Ref. 10751)

**FINANCE** — **£US**
This is an exciting opportunity for a top-class finance lawyer up to 5 years' pqe to join the thriving London office of a leading international US firm, whose particular strength is in banking and project finance. With a wide range of international and domestic clients, the firm will offer the successful candidates an excellent breadth of work and an opportunity to assume early responsibility. (Ref. 26075)

**COMMERCIAL/IP** — **TO £60,000**
This major City firm with an established reputation in the media field is looking to recruit a commercial lawyer between 3-5 years' pqe of exceptional ability to specialise in general commercial and non-contentious IP work. Servicing an enviable client portfolio, the ideal candidate will have the chance to gain hands-on experience and become a key player. (Ref. 26102)

**INSURANCE/REINSURANCE** — **UP TO £55,000**
This strongly performing mid-sized firm with an unrivalled reputation in insurance is looking for assistants up to 4 years' PQE to join one of the firm's busiest departments. The successful candidate will experience a wide ranging domestic and international caseload for an impressive array of clients and have the opportunity to develop their skills to the highest level. (Ref. 26121)

**CONSTRUCTION MIX** — **FROM £45,000**
This progressive City firm is seeking to recruit a construction lawyer with at least 5 years' pqe. The successful candidate will handle a wide ranging caseload comprising of contentious and non-contentious matters and have the sufficient ambition and commercial acumen to make an immediate impact. (Ref. 25564)

**CORPORATE** — **FROM £33,000**
This "magic circle" firm is seeking to recruit September 1999 newly qualified lawyers to join its thriving corporate department, be active team players on high quality corporate transactions and develop their experience in this field. Well known for its friendly working environment and excellent support systems, this is a great chance to start your career on the right path. (Ref. 25994)

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For further information on private practice vacancies please contact Yvonne Smyth or Fiona Bennett (both qualified lawyers) on 0171 523 1240 (01923 855734 evenings/weekends). Fax 0171 523 3839. E-mail yvonne.smyth@zarakgroup.com
Alternatively please write to them at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL.

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Appleby Spurling & Kempe is one of Bermuda's largest and best-known firms of lawyers with an international client base, covering all areas of practice. Bermuda is a sophisticated offshore location with a common law legal system. The firm now wishes to make two appointments both offering the opportunity to gain excellent experience handling a top quality workload in an attractive environment. The starting salary and benefits will be excellent.

### CORPORATE LAWYER

Due to continued expansion, the Corporate Department has an opportunity for a solicitor or barrister with at least five years experience in the areas of company and commercial law gained from a well-known firm or chambers. The department is involved in a wide range of general corporate and commercial matters and the following particular areas of specialisation: insurance; mutual funds; financing; partnerships; securities; shipping and aviation. Whilst experience in any of these areas is not a prerequisite, it would be advantageous and a willingness to learn is important. The role will also involve assistance in training junior lawyers and some corporate administration. You should be happy to work as part of a team of lawyers in a busy and expanding department and excellent interpersonal skills are essential.

### PROPERTY LAWYER

An urgent need has arisen for a solicitor with at least 5 years' post qualification experience gained with a major regional or London firm or in-house. The role involves dealing with a diverse range of residential, commercial and general property transactions. Bermuda operates within a totally unregistered conveyancing system and it is essential that you have excellent drafting skills, including the ability to draft deeds and documents of a novel nature. You will need substantial experience of unregistered conveyancing, the ability to adapt to the requirements of a foreign jurisdiction and a professional approach. With an outgoing personality, you will be highly organised, with a demonstrable ability to operate on your own initiative and you should be capable of dealing with an established caseload with the minimum of supervision.

The closing date for both these positions is Wednesday 7th April. 1st round interviews will be held in London on Thursday 15th April 1999. For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **Sean Mulherin** or **Laurence Simons** personally at **Laurence Simons International**. Third party applications received by the firm will be forwarded to us.



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E-mail: sean@laurencesimons.demon.co.uk

## london/international appointments

***brussels*** — ***£excellent***
Global US law firm has opportunities for talented and able lawyers with at least 3 years experience. The Brussels office is well established and has 20 multinational lawyers. The department undertakes a wide range of matters and specialist industry sectors include telecoms, energy, transport and anti-dumping. You will enjoy excellent quality work within a dynamic environment. BJ

***holborn*** — ***to £50,000***
Highly regarded medium sized Holborn firm wishes to expand its insolvency group by the recruitment of ambitious lawyer admitted 1 to c.3 years (or more senior with following) with quality experience gained in a recognised team/firm. This is a mix of contentious and non-contentious and includes related areas of fraud and banking. Opportunity to be in at the early stage of this structured development: very good prospects. SW

***city*** — ***to £70,000***
If you would like to break out of a fee earning role or indeed, if you are currently a Professional Support Lawyer then this top 20 City firm would be interested in hearing from you. The firm boasts a leading corporate finance department consisting of 40 partners and over 100 assistants. This particular appointment is within the mergers and acquisitions section. Ideally, you will have a minimum of 4 years experience at a City practice. BJ

***central london*** — ***to £60,000***
Established parliamentary team of 5 partners needs 2 further assistants to deal with growing workload. One must have experience of PFI and PPP. Experience of transport infrastructure applications also desirable as is knowledge of planning and public law. You must currently be in private practice, admitted 0 – c.6 years. AHB

***city*** — ***c£50,000***
Complete mix of contentious and non-contentious employment law, working closely with a partner: strategic growth for this highly successful team. This major City firm is international with particular strengths in trade, shipping, insurance and finance. You will be about 3 years admitted with first rate relevant experience. Excellent prospects. SW

***west end*** — ***£attractive***
Established medium sized practice is looking to recruit a senior IP/IT lawyer to add value to and strengthen the existing team. You should have a level of following or at the very least, contacts in the field. The firm has a non-bureaucratic environment and has an impressive client base. It also enjoys international foreign connections. BJ

***moscow***
Top City firm is about to open an office in Moscow. A recent appointment means that 2 partners are now in place. They are now looking for assistants qualified in any jurisdiction, with Russian language skills and experience of finance/oil and gas work. A knowledge of Russian law is desirable. Enviable expatriate package. AHB

***madrid***
Committed to expansion in its core areas of corporate law, banking and shipping, the high profile Madrid office of this recognised City firm invites applications from English or Spanish qualified lawyers. Prerequisites are one to five years' quality experience and a good knowledge of Spanish. Growth is the key. Excellent prospects. SW

***city*** — ***£new york rates***
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## London – overseas – industry

***The right advice***

You wouldn't ask a plumber how to bake a soufflé, or a cordon bleu chef how to change a washer. Equally, you should think twice before asking a partner in a law firm for advice on career moves. However brilliant they may be in their field, recruitment is not their speciality.

This thought is prompted by the story of a newly qualified solicitor who was not kept on at his firm. "Why not take a year off and travel," suggested the friendly head of property. "When you get back there might be more vacancies around." This idea appealed to him, and off he went.

Disaster. When he returned he found himself competing against newly qualified solicitors with fresh experience and without a gap year to explain away to prospective employers. He will find a job eventually, but at a lower level than he'd have found immediately on qualifying.

Fortunately, he enjoyed his year off. But he realises now that it might have been more sensible to take advice from someone with more knowledge of the job-market.

*Michael Chambers*

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CHAMBERS PROFESSIONAL RECRUITMENT

# Is the legal profession riddled with racism?

Ethnic minority figures reveal the scale of the problem, says **Frances Gibb**

The Lawrence inquiry has thrust racism to the top of the political agenda. It has forced the whole criminal justice system into self-scrutiny. On Saturday it will be the legal profession's turn to engage in the debate when the Minority Lawyers Conference considers whether "institutional racism" exists in the profession and justice system.

Many lawyers believe that the figures say it all. Ethnic minority lawyers make up 8.5 per cent of the private practice Bar and 5 per cent of practising solicitors. But the mix is changing and large numbers are joining the profession: in 1988, they made up 20 per cent of the 7,900 students enrolling with the Law Society and 16 per cent of trainees registering with law firms (double the proportion of ethnic minorities in the population). They also account for 16 per cent of barristers starting pupillage and 12 per cent gaining tenancies.

But higher up, minorities are poorly represented. There are no black High Court judges and only four (of 562) circuit judges. Numbers are rising, slowly, in the junior ranks: 3.4 per cent of assistant recorders, 3 per cent of full and part-time tribunal chairmen.

*This is partly because there* is still only a small pool of eligible candidates. But as Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, points out, an "unwelcome trend has emerged". The proportion of applicants chosen to be Queen's Counsel from the ethnic minorities has dropped year on year: of 420 applicants in 1992, 14 (3.3 per cent) were non-white. By 1997, the figure had dropped to 2.4 per cent, although last year it rose again, to 3.5 per cent.

There is recognition of the problem: the conference is a mainstream event, organised by the Lord Chancellor's Department, the Bar and Law Society, in consultation with the main ethnic lawyer groups. Lord Irvine, who will give the keynote speech, has urged ethnic minorities to go for judicial posts: "Don't be shy, apply".

What, then, do they think?

**Maria Fernandes**, 39, an immigration solicitor and Law Society ethnic minorities council member, says: "Ethnic minority solicitors will be adversely affected by the Government's reforms. Under legal aid contracts, small firms will be heavily reduced and this will hit ethnic minority lawyers, who are concentrated in such firms.

"Such lawyers face problems from the start; they go to schools and universities not considered as good as others, then obtain less-good training contracts and a 'ripple effect' sets in. There is no doubt that we have institutional racism at the Law Society and in law firms. We have to tackle it by looking at procedures, training contracts and so on. People are still worried about what clients will think."

When at a City law firm, she was taken by a senior partner to be introduced to a client. "He wanted to reassure the client," she recalls. "There is a fear there, but it is not as obvious as pointing to something and saying that was racism, sexism, or maybe they did not like your face. Many people equate equal opportunities with tackling racism. The profession likes to think the problem does not exist."

**Anuja Dhir**, 31, a barrister at 5 Paper Buildings, says: "There is institutional racism throughout the legal profession and in the way justice is administered. Discrimination occurs in three ways: first, ethnic minority lawyers are not what people perceive to be the right colour, and perhaps also the right sex, for a barrister, and that perception is held by other lawyers, judges and lay clients. Secondly, they are perceived not to have been to the 'right' schools or universities. Thirdly, they don't have the same social skills to integrate.

"I was lucky, but others get forced into ghetto chambers and don't get the opportunities and can never recover from that. People can't apply for posts if they haven't had the right experience."

**Raju Bhatt**, 42, a solicitor with his own four-partner firm, Bhatt Murphy, says: "The criminal justice system is permeated with racism at every level and black people are treated differently — from the way complaints are handled to sentences. Black lawyers all have experiences. I have been treated at court as if I am the consumer of the system, rather than the supplier. I came into law late and was lucky to get a training contract at Birnbergs, where I was given space to develop my practice (complaints against the police, prisons, deaths in custody, prisoners' rights). That is so important. But my experience is very untypical. Many black lawyers have to battle to get those footholds."

**Lincoln Crawford**, 50, a barrister and chairman of the Bar race relations committee, says: "Things are not as bad as when I started in 1976, when it was almost impossible to get into chambers. I was pulled in by Sir Peter Rawlinson because he was determined to do something. But he was a lone voice. I still find problems getting work. It's all been through my contacts.

"The reason the Lord Chancellor can't get enough ethnic minorities into judicial posts is because of our failings at the Bar and among solicitors who don't brief black barristers.

"We have to show we are making a difference: we can't go out as lawyers and defend people in this era of change while we at the Bar are hiding behind our equal opportunities and equality codes."



Maria Fernandes: "A ripple effect sets in"



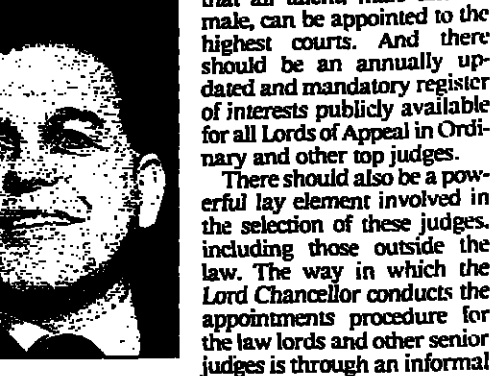
"There is institutional racism in the profession," says Anuja Dhir; Lincoln Crawford adds: "I still find problems"

# Discovering just who runs the country

It is time that we knew more about our top judges: who they are, what their interests are and how they are appointed. Why? Because over the years judges have taken more and more powers to themselves. This, when linked to the new constitutional role that legislation is giving them, radically alters the balance of power. To say this is not to criticise the integrity of any top judge, simply to emphasise that they are becoming overmighty subjects: too powerful and selected in secret by an unaccountable process.

We need greater openness about the way our judges are appointed for four reasons, and there are four ways of ensuring that we know more about these people (mostly men).

First, because of the way in which an unchecked judiciary has been pushing out the boundaries of its powers. Only 20 years ago, judicial review of government decisions was a rarity. Even as an old lag of the government process, case-hardened in the corridors of Whitehall, I do not think that the judicial review of government decisions is bad. But its increasing use has radically altered the balance of powers in our constitutional arrangements and the law lords have brought themselves straight into the political process as a result.





JOHN PATTEN

Secondly, when the substantive provisions of the European Rights Act come into force, by developing the common law compatibly with the rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights, we shall be facing a legal revolution. For the first time, our rights as subjects will be spelt out, leading to an ever-greater burst of judicial activism.

The Government's vague mystery tour approach to constitutional change has left a vacuum that will mean judges are drawn into arbitrating between Westminster, the Scottish parliament and the Welsh assembly. This may not be the Government's intention, but unless it comes up with an alternative mechanism, the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords will become a constitutional court.

When asked whether he has proposals to develop a constitutional court, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, denied this. But he seems blind to the fact that it is about to evolve in front of our eyes. Baroness Jay of *Paddington says that the Government is not* going to set up a permanent royal commission or any similar body to monitor constitutional change in the UK. If so, the higher judiciary is going to be asked to garner more and more constitutional power to itself.

Thirdly, it is vital that we have greater openness because of the greater judicial activism that we now see around us. Judges more and more take to themselves jurisdiction over moral matters, in line with how they, not Parliament, see international law developing. In the past, under common law, judges always had the ability to circumvent parliamentary influence, but this has rarely been a matter of serious public concern, let alone constitutional implication. Why? Because of the usual conservative and personally cautious approach of the law lords, who have ensured that the tide of change has flowed slowly.

We urgently need to build in more checks and balances, to guarantee that no one group of people, in this case our judges, become over-mighty subjects. The best way to start on this process is to ensure that our judges are closely scrutinised. *Posts at the highest level* need to be advertised to show that all talent, male and female, can be appointed to the highest courts. And there should be an annually updated and mandatory register of interests publicly available for all Lords of Appeal in Ordinary and other top judges.

There should also be a powerful lay element involved in the selection of these judges, including those outside the law. The way in which the *Lord Chancellor* conducts the appointments procedure for the law lords and other senior judges is through an informal and secret consultation process with other senior judges — exactly like the old magic circle approach by which Conservative Party leaders were selected until the 1960s.

Lastly, so important is a law lord's role becoming that there should be public hearings before anyone is appointed a law lord. Most in the law seem to be in a state of absolute denial that the higher judiciary has become more political. Yet as things stand, the role of these judges in promoting and monitoring constitutional change will be unfettered.

There should be a select committee of both Houses of Parliament to ensure that those recommended for appointment are fit for the role, and that our courts contain a balance. But on reflection, perhaps this idea is not so radical, after all, for surely our top judiciary — who seemed so very keen to have the European Convention on Human Rights incorporated into our law — could not resist the idea *that they, too, are selected by the same open* process as their brother judges in Strasbourg.

It is the very judicial activism of our top judges that has brought their role so sharply into focus. Fairness and constitutional balance demand that they should be as closely examined as those who appear before them.

● *Lord Patten is a former Home Office Minister.*

# Legal DIARY

A LEADING insurance company claimed a breakthrough this week with a new policy to back conditional fee legal actions with no upfront costs. Royal & SunAlliance claims that its scheme will make "no win, no fee" a reality for thousands of people wanting to use the courts. The premiums to protect legal costs, agreed in advance, will be recouped only from winners.

The new policy will pick up all the costs awarded against the litigant, plus most of his or her solicitor's costs and expenses. Peter Smith of the insurers says: "At present, people can insure against judgments going against them, but premiums must be paid before the case starts."

☐ An American judge is to receive four Viagra pills a month from his health insurer after threatening to sue it for not supplying him with the potency drug, according to *The American Lawyer* magazine. Initially, the health insurer of Judge David Scholl, a Philadelphia bankruptcy judge who says he is partially impotent, refused to supply him with the drug, but relented when he filed a grievance procedure and threatened to take it to court.

☐ The first privately run coffee shop for Salford County Court judges has been packing them in. Even judges from other courts go there to sample their celebrity sandwiches. Aazam and Zeagham Ahmad name them after customers of their nearby Manchester showbiz district shop, Deansgate Sandwiches. Clients include *Coronation Street's* Audrey Roberts, who pops in for a Sue Nicholls Experience, the Hallé Orchestra conductor Kent Nagano, who enjoys a Nagano Express, and the stage star Shane Ritchie who has his own Lucky Butty.

☐ All but two of the 42 new Chief Crown Prosecutors, whose appointments were announced last week, come from within the Crown Prosecution Service, despite the fact that more than a quarter of the 209 applicants were external. Ironically, the posts were created as part of a drive to decentralise the service and many commentators saw the move as a chance to inject new blood into the service.

☐ Euro lawyers will flock to the first annual Lord Slynn of Hadley European Law Lecture — by Gil Carlos Rodriguez Iglesias, the President of the European Court of Justice, on Monday. The subject? Drinks in Luxembourg, alcoholic beverages and European case law — oiled by a reception. Details: Lisa Fretton, 0171-391 1514.

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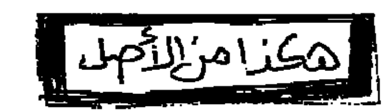
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*For further information, in complete confidence, please contact* **Cleo Staniforth, Tim Marshall** or **Gavin Sharpe** (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 405 6062 (0171 652 3501 or 0171 0777 150 1427 eve/wkends) or *write to them at* **QD Legal.**

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# Curbing power at the DTI

## Kevin Maxwell's contempt victory has implications for future inquiries, say **Keith Oliver** and **David Corker**

The unprecedented defeat suffered by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in its attempt to cite Kevin Maxwell for contempt of court — arising from his reasoned refusal to co-operate with a DTI inquiry — may be the death knell of such inquiries under the Companies Act 1985.

In his judgment delivered last week, Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor and head of the Chancery Division, said that Maxwell's fears about unfair treatment at the hands of DTI inspectors were justified. He had been entitled to refuse to answer their questions and to refuse to provide a confidentiality undertaking.

The powers of DTI inspectors conducting Section 432 or 442 Companies Act inquires can be fairly described as draconian. They have, for example, the powers of compulsory questioning and seizure of documents, and their published reports often lead to career blight for those criticised. Furthermore, these reports can also be a prelude to criminal prosecution.

Inspectors, encouraged by the DTI, have become accustomed to setting the rules for the conduct of inquiries as they see fit. At the least, Maxwell's case underlines the need for DTI inspectors to give greater recognition to standards of fairness and reasonableness rather than slavishly adhering to past custom and practice.

The inspectors were appointed to investigate the events surrounding the flotation, in April 1991, of Mirror Group Newspapers. Having failed to secure Maxwell's compliance with their regime of questioning and confidentiality, the inspectors in late 1998 cited him for contempt. Anticipating the implications for DTI inquiries were the inspectors' application to fail, the DTI intervened and was separately represented. The inspectors' argument was that Maxwell had unreasonably refused to co-operate pursuant to his statutory obligations under the Companies Act and that the inspectors could be trusted to be fair masters of their own procedure. It was said that the imposition of confidentiality on witnesses was necessary to ensure the effective operation of DTI inquiries.

Maxwell argued that the inspectors had not gone far enough in seeking to protect him from unfairness. For example, they had not agreed to refrain from asking him questions regarding matters about which he had already been questioned, either in his criminal trial or beforehand during the various insolvency interrogations. Maxwell said that the attempt to impose confidentiality was one-sided in favour of the inspectors; they were seeking to prevent him from conferring with others in order to defend himself properly while they enjoyed no restriction in the use they made of information given to them.

> 'Inspectors have been used to setting the rules of inquiries'

In his, at times, excoriating judgment of the inspectors and the DTI, the Vice-Chancellor reserved his most trenchant comments for the inspectors' attempt to impose any such confidentiality. He held that they had no right to insist on any such undertaking. "If they wish to preserve and protect the confidentiality of the information and documents they need do no more than make sure that every person to whom the information is communicated ... is on notice of their confidential character". The undertaking that the inspectors sought to extract from Maxwell was "... in my opinion a good deal further than was either reasonable or necessary".

The Vice-Chancellor concluded: "Mr Maxwell was, in my judgment, entitled to regard these conditions as constituting an unjustified impediment hindering him in attempting to prepare himself to deal with the inspectors' questions."

What is undeniable is that individuals who are compelled to appear before DTI inspectors — whether those appointed under the Companies Act or the Financial Services Act — should no longer regard a summons to the presence as an appearance before a Star Chamber with an entirely uneven playing field. Inspectors are no longer automatically entitled to require blanket undertakings of confidentiality from witnesses, particularly if they are unrepresented and where there have been previous proceedings.



SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

The DTI failed to cite Kevin Maxwell for contempt after he had refused to co-operate with its inquiry

Inspectors may need to identify to witnesses their evidence given to other tribunals, regulators, prosecuting authorities or office-holders to avoid the oppression of duplicated questioning. Individuals may be entitled to receive advance notice of questions so that they can prepare in advance and not be subjected to interrogation where the inspectors, with their substantial resources, hold all the aces.

The implications of the case are not limited to Maxwell's victory. One issue surely under consideration by Stephen Byers and his department is whether inspections under Part XIV of the Companies Act 1985 can continue in their present form. Sir Richard Scott's decision, coupled with the implementation of the Human Rights Act, is likely to affect significantly the State's use of compulsive inquisitorial powers. It is not only the DTI that should take note of the judge's decision. The Financial Services Authority, with its proposed draconian powers as contemplated in the Financial Services and Markets Bill, may find that its powers and procedures will similarly face judicial scrutiny and perhaps suffer the same fate as has befallen the Secretary of State and his inspectors.

● *Keith Oliver and David Corker are partners with the law firm Peters and Peters, which acted for Kevin Maxwell.*

# Should young offenders be tagged?

### PAULA DAVIES, London magistrate

Child offenders as young as ten could be electronically tagged under last week's proposals from the Youth Justice Board to tackle the rising number of young criminals. Will the Big Brother approach work? A London probation officer said recently of tagging: "People like us have to listen to too many excuses, so maybe this scheme will be more effective."

As a JP I am concerned that tagging should be used as a community sentence order or part of one. This should involve the Probation Service rather than just putting a prisoner under the control of a machine which can alert a computer that they have absconded. The idea came from America more than 30 years ago and has been selectively piloted in a few areas since 1995. The pilot schemes have been more successful than expected. In Greater Manchester, which dominated the national statistics on tagging, the completion rate of curfew orders — 80 per cent — confounded expectations. At first magistrates were sceptical and wary. Yet experience from the pilot schemes won them over. Why? Because tagging in those schemes, unlike the present home detention curfews, was imposed as part of a community service order and usually directly involved the Probation Service.

In Greater Manchester magistrates used the orders as direct alternatives to custody in five out of ten cases. Magistrates elsewhere would welcome the chance to do the same, but the orders are not yet in force nationally. The jury is still out on whether such schemes will reduce offending rather than merely empty the prisons. Reconviction rates post-prison are higher than those after community service, and if such orders can include reparation orders, the outcome could be even better. The scheme must be worth a try nationally; and will, I hope, come into force this year.

### JULIAN BROADHEAD, probation officer

In January the first prisoners were released under electronic tagging in the Government's latest attempt to cut prison numbers. Not all prisoners qualify for the new home detention curfew — a period of between 14 days and two months at the end of a sentence. They must be aged at least 18 and serving between three months and four years. Those required to register under the Sex Offenders Act 1997 or Category A prisoners are ineligible. The official estimate is that 35,000 prisoners are expected to be released in one year. Curfews are between nine and 13 hours, from 7pm to 7am. The offender must stay at home.

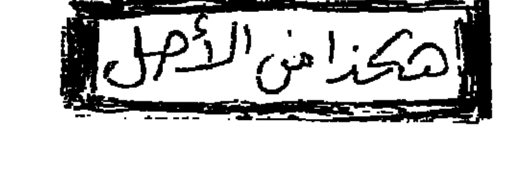
How does the monitoring work? On release, a small identification device is attached to one ankle and a monitoring unit is installed in the prisoner's home. The unit communicates with a central computer system and if the tag is interfered with or if the person wearing it strays beyond a set range (usually only within the home) the device informs the contractor and the person is liable for recall to prison.

The legislation, Sections 99 and 100 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, has had widespread support. Confidence is high among politicians, prison staff and the contracting companies, Premier, Securicor and GSSC. There were hitches in the pilot schemes. Bed-springs were blamed for setting off tags after police visited homes in the early hours to find their person not missing but sleeping soundly: one man removed his tag before committing a murder and many others simply disappeared.

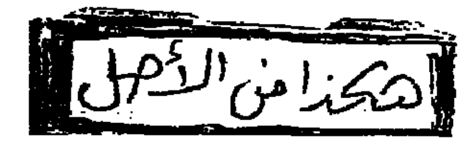
The scheme's success will depend on how prisoners are selected. The projected figure of 4,000 prisoners tagged at any one time seems high. And even if achieved, the prison population will be higher than when the Government took office.

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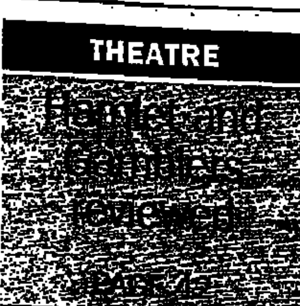













THE TIMES

# ARTS






# The victory of Mama Africa

**A great singer and a dignified ambassador, Miriam Makeba is back in London. Nigel Williamson met her**

The first thing Miriam Makeba did when she was allowed to return to her native South Africa after more than three decades in exile was to visit her mother's grave. "I sometimes wondered if it would ever happen. I had a wonderful reception from family and friends who I hadn't seen since I left. Some I could no longer recognise. I put my bags down at my brothers' house and then they took me straight there."

It is hard not to get a lump in the throat as Makeba tells the story. It was when her mother died in 1960 that she was banned by the apartheid regime. At the time she was on tour in America where, under the patronage of Harry Belafonte, she was fast becoming a star. As she was preparing to fly home for the funeral she was told that her public criticisms of Pretoria's regime had made her *persona non grata*.

This week she flies to London for her first British concert in five years. She has just finished recording a new album, her first since the end of apartheid, aptly titled *Makeba — The Legend Lives On*. With South Africa preparing for its second free election in June, her Festival Hall appearance promises to be a celebration not only of the rainbow nation but of the triumph of the human spirit in the face of overwhelming adversity.

She will be accompanied by a family entourage that spans four generations — for, at 67, "Mama Africa" is now a great-grandmother. Travelling with her will be her granddaughter, Zinzi, who sings in the band, and her three-year-old son, Lindelini.

Makeba's lined face bears the imprint of the tragedy that has dogged her life and country, but it also shines with the serenity and dignity she has never lost. As the ambassador of black South Africa, she sang to Kennedy on his birthday, addressed the United Nations and sold millions of records of her Xhosa and Zulu songs.

But always the cloud of exile hung over her. With it came huge sacrifice. Three members of her family were killed in the Sharpeville massacre in 1960. There were several divorces, including from the trumpeter Hugh Masekela and the Black Panther, Stokeley Carmichael. Her daughter Bongi died after her third baby was stillborn. Makeba herself battled with cancer.

Yet there is no trace of bitterness. "It's very tiring being bitter. The light at the end of the tunnel only grows brighter if we don't waste energy on the past and look to the future."

South Africa has been lucky, she says, in having the example of Mandela. "When I first came home he said to me: 'Miriam, we must never forget, but we must forgive.' He had the ability to unite people and it is a miracle that we made the transition without fighting. Now people from all sides are working very hard to keep it together."

Although her music was a potent tool in the service of the cause, she has remained an artist rather than a militant. "I feel vindicated. They used to brand me a rebel because I sang about politics. I never sang about politics. I merely sang the truth. People can now come to South Africa and see for themselves that we were not being ridiculous when we told them what was happening. We had to fight. We had to go into exile. We had no choice."

Since she returned in 1991 at Mandela's request, she has been working on a project to create a home for destitute girls at Balfour, an impoverished township. Two weeks ago on her birthday she finally unveiled the plaque that announced the establishing of the Makeba Home For Girls. If she can raise enough funds to complete the renovation of the old miners' hostel it should open its doors in August.

"South Africa has great potential. There is crime, but the root of that is poverty. People still need housing. In years to come there will be relief if we work hard. But we appeal to people in Britain — don't abandon us. You helped us before but keep on helping, because the struggle goes on."

There is a humility about her that means she has mixed feelings about the name by which she is known around the world. "Mama Africa is a heavy burden. It is as if I am carrying the whole continent on my back. But I recognise it is an affectionate name and yes, that makes me feel good." A hall overflowing with that affection on the South Bank this week is guaranteed.

● *Miriam Makeba is at the Festival Hall (0171-960 4242) tomorrow*

AKWA BETOTE



Miriam Makeba: "They branded me a rebel because I sang about politics. I never sang about politics. I sang the truth"

BUILDING A LIBRARY

## A guide to the best classical CDs presented with BBC Radio 3

**■ HANDEL'S WATER MUSIC**
**Reviewed by Lucie Skeaping**

HANDEL composed his "Celebrated Water Musick" in 1717 for the season's grandest bash — an evening river party given by George I. It had been a pretty bad year for the monarchy and a high-profile floating fiesta was just what the spin-doctors ordered. The King and his entourage boarded open barges as did 50 liveried musicians, who played Mr Handel's new work all the way up the Thames from Whitehall to Chelsea and back.

The most successful performances achieve a good "outdoor" sound, particularly in the brass and woodwind. The brazen horns of the King's Consort hit the mark. The Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra opts for small forces — fine in gentler movements but elsewhere leaving the harpsichord over-exposed. The Orchestra of St Luke's under Charles Mackerras displays a hearty rhythmic cheek.

But one should be a little wary of modern-instrument performances of this quintessentially 18th-century work and the Berlin Philharmonic is waterlogged from the start — its slow Overture presages a performance as burly as Berlioz. I wasn't too keen on John Eliot Gardiner's English Baroque Soloists either — they take the famous Air with a swing, but other movements often steamroller through without sensitivity to the natural phrasing.

The naive charm of the G major Minuet is beautifully captured by Christopher Hogwood's Academy of Ancient Music in a listenable overall recording, but in the end, I would fork out for **Il Fondamento** (Vanguard Classics 99713, £8.99). I have never heard the *Water Music* sound quite as fresh as this: bold, beautiful and damn good fun. Perfect party music.

● *To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk*

*Next Saturday, Radio 3 (11am): Dvořák's Cello Concerto*

# Perfect bass instincts

CONCERTS

First of all catch your bassist. The most successful of British double-bass concertos in recent years, John Casken's and Peter Maxwell Davies's pre-eminent among them, have been written specifically for Duncan McTier, who plays a notoriously awkward instrument with the most extraordinary clarity and fluency. Robin Holloway's Concerto for Double Bass and Small Orchestra, Op 83 — commissioned jointly by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Northern Sinfonia and Sinfonia 21 — is the latest McTier inspiration, and one of the most effective.

The new work is characteristic Holloway in that it approaches the problem in a thoroughly radical way. Far from attempting to compensate for the restricted colour and dynamic range of the double bass by means of extravagant orchestration, the composer has pared the score down to the extent that the solo instrument seems to be the most resourceful element in it. Far from compensating for its restricted mobility with complex harmonics and rhythms, he has simplified the material to suit its slow-thinking personality. The first movement is written entirely on the white notes (to translate it into keyboard terms) with not a sharp or flat to be seen. There is a progression in sophistication in the second and third movements but without ever getting as far as the equivalent of asking the instrument to walk on its hind legs.

So after the first movement — where the soloist carries a heavy melodic line as if on a Mussorgsky promenade, finding harmonic interest in the modes its passes through and rhythmic interest in contradicting the bar lines — there is a witty scherzo in which the bass assumes its jazz persona in a stylishly syncopated, eloquently expressive pizzicato improvisation.

In the last movement too, although the soloist has a busy cadenza and a memorably weird passage in harmonics, the orchestra is held in restraint until, right at the end, it is allowed to luxuriate in what is actually a simple A major. It is a brave and remarkably fresh approach to old-fashioned diatonic harmony with, most emphatically, nothing of minimalism anywhere near it.

The first three performances of the Double Bass Concerto were given in St Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow by McTier and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Andrew Litton. In the Edinburgh concert the Dvořák *Legends* that preceded it sounded oddly out of place in the Queen's Hall acoustic which, on the other hand, was just right for the precisely projected and finely focused McTier sound in the Holloway, and not at all inimical to an exuberant interpretation of Schumann's Fourth Symphony.

GERALD LARNER

# Cold at heart

Philharmonia/Dohnányi
Festival Hall

Few works meditate more profoundly on life and death than Mahler's Ninth Symphony, so it was a fitting gesture that Saturday night's performance by the Philharmonia under its principal conductor Christoph von Dohnányi was dedicated to the late Lord Menuhin.

The symphony has become irrevocably associated (thanks not least to Leonard Bernstein) with raw nerve-endings and overt emotionalism. But other approaches can be equally valid. Pierre Boulez has recently brought to bear on Mahler the laser beam of his intellect, delivering cool, lucid accounts that reveal new insights into texture and structure. Dohnányi is a man after Boulez's heart: precise, cerebral, not given to excess and rigorously eschewing sentimentality.

The virtues of such an approach were evident from the start, in the half-hour-long first movement with its cortège-like processions. His second violins placed on the right and cellos next to the firsts on the left, Dohnányi etched the profile of the various string lines with striking clarity. Wind and brass meanwhile spotlit the texture with detail, and the shape of the movement emerged with admirable intelligibility.

A nagging feeling that it was all a shade calculated began to take root, however — a sense that was not dissipated by Dohnányi's handling of the second-movement Ländler. "Somewhat clumsy and very coarse" it may be marked by the composer, but this peasant dance should still have a spring of some kind in its step. The satirical nature of the Rondo-Burleske was rather more convincing, even if Dohnányi's measured reading hardly allowed it to make as explosively immediate an impact as it should.

And so to the Adagio finale, that sublime valediction to life, where, alas, Dohnányi's coolness seemed more than ever like matter-of-factness. His spatial disposition of the strings once again enhanced the richly textured fabric of the score, and the members of the Philharmonia surpassed themselves in maintaining their concentration over the long span.

However, the emotional barometer obstinately refused to register, and if this movement fails to tug at the heartstrings, there is something seriously wrong. A stoic confrontation with mortality is one thing, but we should be in no doubt that the final pages of this awe-inspiring score are a matter of life and death.

BARRY MILLINGTON





# Italian genius in French

OPERA

Les Vêpres siciliennes
Queen Elizabeth Hall

The Chelsea Opera Group had done well by Verdi's first opera written for Paris: it gave a rare concert performance in the original French some 20 years ago, at a time when even the Paris Opéra was still performing it in Italian translation. It does matter: the French language governs the style of the vocal writing even more than in *Don Carlos*, and the composer took great pains over the word-setting.

However, Sunday's repeat tended to confirm that the concert platform is perhaps the best place for *Les Vêpres siciliennes* — it's one of the most uneven of Verdi's operas. He had to make do with a second-hand libretto from the Scribe factory in which cardboard characters are put in stock situations: the interest lies in the way Verdi's genius bursts through operatic formulas as restrictive as the cavatina-cabaletta patterns he had tamed at home, and in the fact that he was flexing his muscles with the best orchestra and chorus of the day. The good bits are stunning, the less good bits workaday.

The Australian conductor Brad Cohen made the strongest possible case for the piece with rhythmic vitality, an infallible feel for the right tempo, a sense of structure and, when appropriate, some good honest vulgarity. The COG Orchestra and Chorus responded with enthusiasm, but without quite disguising the fact that some of the writing is very tricky indeed.

In an evening that might well have been subtitled "Pardon my French", enunciation of the text ranged from the well-intentioned to the grotesque, and the baritone David Barrell (Guy de Montfort) had the best intentions of all: he really "thought" the lines, and shaped them with rare musical insight. Edmund Barham, who has been heard here far too little recently, coped heroically with Henri's relentlessly high-lying tessitura and used his impressive breath control to spin some long, Gallically elegant lines. It was sad that the only significant cut (apart from the ballet) deprived him of the seraphic little phrase sailing up to a top D.

Hélène is another killer-role and Denia Mazzola attacked it fearlessly; slight of stature but with her flashing eyes looking every inch the Sicilian patriot, she has a huge, evenly distributed soprano and bags of technical agility — very impressive. The young Romanian bass Sorin Coliban (Procida) sounded more like a Boris Godunov in the making than a *basse chantante*, but the material offers boundless possibilities. Some of the singing in smaller roles was as workaday as some of the music. A solidly satisfying evening, all the same.

RODNEY MILNES

# ■ LISTINGS
## Trevor Nunn's *Troilus*

# ARTS

## ■ THEATRE
## Glib view of *Hamlet*

### RECOMMENDED TODAY

**Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargie**

**LONDON**

**TROILUS AND CRESSIDA:** Trevor Nunn and John Caird direct black Trojans and white Greeks, with Peter de Jersey and Sophie Okonedo. Olivier, South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). Ⓢ Tonight, 7pm.

**MARK BRUCE DANCE CO:** Music inspired by Tom Waits forms the basis for Bruce's new solo for Diane Loosmore, *Kid Drinking Fire*. A special commission for the Spring Loaded Festival. The Place (0171-387 0031). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm.

**ANIMAL CRACKERS:** Ben Keaton, Joe Alessi and Toby Sedgwick play the three maniacs in a stage version of the Marx Brothers movie. First seen at Manchester's Royal Exchange. Lyric, W1 (0171-494 5045). Opens tonight, 7pm.

**ELSEWHERE**

**BIRMINGHAM:** Oliver Knussen's two delightful fantasy operas, *Higglety Pigglety Pop!* and *Where the Wild Things Are*, are given a concert performance by the London Sinfonietta conducted by the composer. Repeated in the QEH, London, tomorrow. Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

**HUMBERSIDE:** The fruits of nine months' hard artistic labour are reaped as the inmates from Wolds Prison joined by a clutch of professional performers premiere the rock musical *Subtopia*. This large-scale spectacular, featuring lasers, indoor kites and an electronic musical score, is created by Summit Arts. A gala performance on Saturday will be transmitted live on the Net. Website: www.subtopia.co.uk Tickets from Hull City Council (01482 226655). Tonight-Sat, 6.15pm.



Inmates from Wolds Prison perform *Subtopia*

**MANCHESTER:** In Jonathan Harvey's new play *Hushabye Mountain*, dead Danny enjoys the company of Judy Garland in Heaven while his boyfriend on Earth copes with the hole in his life. Paul Miller directs this touring production. Library Theatre (0161-236 7110). Tonight, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

**WARWICK:** In this celebrity concert the Stuttgart Philharmonic is joined by the acclaimed pianist Barry Douglas who plays Brahms's passionate First Piano Concerto. Music by Hindemith, Fauré and Ravel make up the remainder of the programme. Jorge Peter Welgie conducts. Warwick Arts Centre (01203 524524). Tonight, 8pm. Ⓢ

### NEW WEST END SHOWS

**Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London**
■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

□ **TRUST:** Patrick O'Kane plays a Belfast Mr Fixit whose skills disastrously fail his own family. Mick Gordon directs new Gary Mitchell drama. Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

□ **HAMLET:** Rupert Wickham plays the hero in Christopher Geelan's production, reopening this theatre. See review, right. Greenwich (0870 840 1111). Ⓢ

□ **BLUE HEART:** Caryl Churchill's wonderfully inventive pair of plays, revealing family troubles by way of tricks with words and time. Max Stafford-Clark directs for Out of Joint. Pleasance Theatre (0171-609 1800).

□ **SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW:** The excellent Slava Polunin returns, with new material, new clowns as well as his unforgettable finale. Piccadilly Theatre (0171-369 1734).

■ **SPEER:** Klaus Maria Brandauer directs and plays the title role of Hitler's master architect in Esther Vilar's drama. With Sven Eric Bechtolf. Almeida (0171-359 4404).

◩ **MACBETH:** Rufus Sewell and Sally Dexter play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's production. Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

◩ **COPENHAGEN:** Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's engrossing play is directed by Michael Blakemore. Duchess (0171-494 5075).

□ **BARTHOLOMEW FAIR:** Laurence Boswell's jolly production of Ben Jonson's rumbustious comedy transfers from Stratford. Young Vic (0171-928 6363). Ⓢ

□ **SHOCKHEADED PETER:** Wonderfully sinister show by the Cultural Industry team with the Tiger Lillies and Martyn Jacques's falsetto screech. Lyric (0181-741 8701). Ⓢ

□ **DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN:** Mark Little makes his West End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves. Apollo (0171-494 5070).

### FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

**James Christopher's choice of the latest movies**

**NEW RELEASES**

**PATCH ADAMS (12):** Robin Williams puts the comic stitches in this absurd medical movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter. Director Tom Shadyac extracts an obscene amount of sentiment with as little anaesthetic as possible.

**PLEASANTVILLE (12):** Ingenious spoof of American family values. Two dysfunctional 1990s teenagers get sucked into a squeaky-clean 1950s TV soap. Great performances from Tobey Maguire, Jeff Daniels, and Reese Witherspoon.

**CENTRAL STATION (15):** Walter Salles's Brazilian road movie creates fabulous chemistry between a young boy in search of his identity, and a cynical ex-teacher in search of her soul. Fernanda Montenegro and Vinicius de Oliveira are astonishing.

**SCHIZOPOLIS (18):** Steven Soderbergh's experimental satire on corporate anxiety is utter gibberish, with camera angles and dialogue to match.

**CURRENT**

**BELOVED (15):** Oprah Winfrey is surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by poltergeists, lynch mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme's overlong film fails, however, to get inside the festering heart of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize winner. With Danny Glover, Thandie Newton, and Kimberly Elise.

**FESTEN (15):** Thomas Vinterberg's biting, black, Danish farce features a disastrous family reunion. Shot with hand-held cameras, it manages to look spontaneous, ghastly, and deliciously voyeuristic.

**THE 39 STEPS (U):** Hitchcock's witty take on Buchan's ripping yarn is full of fabulous set pieces. Robert Donat's smooth bachelor dashes across Scotland pursued by scampering police and ruthless spies. A romance and good hand-cuffing rarely feel more than a frame away.

**THE THIN RED LINE (15):** A glittering cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malick's artistic masterpiece stars Sean Penn, Jim Caviezel, Ben Chaplin, and Nick Nolte.

**YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG):** Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

**Nigel Cliff sees an over-performed Shakespeare tragedy and a little-performed Gogol comedy**

# Noises on and off

The rest is silence, says Hamlet in Act V: his dying words. It is one of those peculiarly Shakespearean phrases which seem simple enough, but suggest an awful lot more than they say. In death, in silence, Hamlet finally manages to suit the action to the word — the advice he gave to the actors earlier. But plays (if not this play) are neater than life, and the moment cannot last. On cue, in marches Fortinbras with his drums and guns to give the philosopher-prince an incongruous and far from silent soldier's funeral, which he blithely proclaims will "speak loudly for him".

Hamlet is arguably the most elaborately silent character in literature. The more words, words, words he unleashes, the less we know him — the less, though to say so is a contradiction too, he knows himself. Noise, in this most elusive of plays, is often meaningless, silence seldom empty.

**LONDON THEATRE**

These ironies are lost, though, in Christopher Geelan's ham-handed production at the newly reopened Greenwich Theatre, which ends more with a whimper than with a bang and which sports, in Rupert Wickham, the loudest Hamlet I can remember. Spluttering with petulant pique, spitting out his soliloquies, thwarted by events rather than stymied by endless self-examination, this is Hamlet as angry young man rather than as metaphysical mercenary.

It makes for a certain nervous energy and the semblance of clarity. But this is a glib and meretricious interpretation, which fails to hold water even after a whopping number of lines have been ditched. *Hamlet* has to be cut, but there is judicious pruning and there is senseless hacking.

Though Wickham is mannered, he at least holds the attention and speaks the verse clearly. Most manage far less. Colin Farrell and Paul Thornley play Polonius and Guildenstern for easy laughs: they raise a fair few, but overdo it. David Sterne's Claudius is totally lacking in presence; Alwyne Taylor's brassy Gertrude is better. It was a mistake to have a chorus stand in for the Ghost: the device is awkward, and it robs his resounding words of their necessary force.

No help is offered by Bridget Kimak's crude set, billed as "startling and disjointed", actually three banks of rudimentary steps on which a Jackson Pollock fan seems to have been let loose. The costumes are a bizarre ragbag of periods and styles. Perhaps it was the school parties making their presence loudly felt in the audience — a laudably ambitious outreach programme is running in tandem with the production — but the whole thing reminded me of a sixth-form play.



DONALD COOPER

Murder most welcome: Hamlet (Rupert Wickham) contemplates killing his father (David Sterne) in Greenwich

More hammy acting is on display across at the Battersea Arts Centre in Double Edge Drama's new version of Gogol's little-known play, *Gamblers*. But this time, thankfully, it is deliberate. This tightly plotted little piece, well served by Joe Spence's free and easy adaptation, deals with the gulling of a naive provincial card-sharp by a band of worldly-wise conmen.

Since the sting is not revealed until the end, the challenge for the director, Charlie Wood, is to signal that something fishy is going on without making it too obvious. The trick is a set of ever-so-subtly dodgy performances from the six fraudsters, and a game of dare with the audience. It is a brave cast who spend a whole play playing characters playing other characters badly. Inevitably you wonder at first whether they are acting bad acting, or just bad actors.

With hindsight, the six pull off their assigned caricatures — the etiolated Frenchman, the militaristic German, the puritanical provincial Russian landowner and the like — with a good deal of skill and self-control. Particularly enjoyable are Paul Parris as a cheeky young inn-keeper (a Russian version of Sam Weller from *The Pickwick Papers*), Roger Braban as the landowner, and Paul Curran as his son Young Glov, who seems the ultimate booby until it transpires he is in on the game.

Of course, it is also a brave writer who lets you think he can only create stereotypes until the last minute of his play: this difficulty no doubt explains why *Gamblers* was left unfinished by Gogol and remains seldom performed. But there is a satisfying economy and symmetry to the plot, ably orchestrated in Wood's fast-paced production.

At times, perhaps, it is too fast: the cast seem unsure whether they are playing a farce or a black comedy. It is, indeed, somewhere between the two, but could benefit from being pitched more towards the latter.

But this is a likeable little teaser of a production. The card-table scenes are particularly well brought off: they bristle with tension, intrigue, and the double-dealing that the play suggests is part of the game of life.

# Higher hurdles please

The ten members of Phoenix Dance put you in mind of racehorses, champing at the bit in their eagerness to be off and running. So it seems a shame that the current repertory doesn't always provide the Leeds-based company with the highest choreographic hurdles.

The first half of the programme is a neatly balanced conceit: three consecutive duets, with scarcely any pause in between. *Cornered*, created and originally performed by Phoenix dancer Andile Sotiya and former company member Warren Adams, clearly sprang from their own athleticism. With their jack-knife jumps and somersaults, Gee Goodison and Hugh Davis are equally vivid replacements, seeming to crowd each other even on a bare stage. The dance's few clichés (an opening cry of "Freedom!", a mimetic beating against invisible bars) are easily forgiven.

**DANCE**

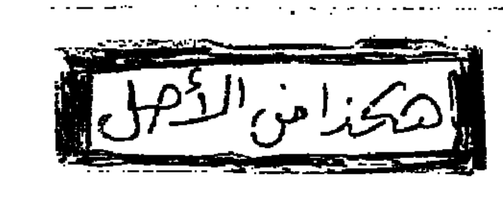
Rap artist/poet Jonzi D's *Us Must Trust Us* is a study of faulty friendship grounded in street life. Clad in the urban uniform of baggy trousers and trainers, Nicola Moses and Maria Ryan make an engaging team. Featuring both voice-over and spoken text, the piece shifts from casual conversation to a state of crisis. Suddenly these young women are bad-mouthing each other ("She lusts for everything but trust"), while their previously in-sync, wriggling variations on club dance go pear-shaped. Their repetitious moves reflect a jazzy rap soundtrack.

The Phoenix artistic director Thea Nerissa Barnes's *The Last Word* is more problematic. Sotiya and Sharon Stern wheel out a butterfly-backed, two-seat chair, pushing and shoving it — and each other — around in a prickly search for supremacy. Littered with display-like lifts and throws, their argumentative intimacy remains stubbornly superficial. These two fine dancers need better choreography than this to take advantage of their liquid-limbed power.

The same can be said of Dwight Roden's splashy, high-concept ensemble dance, *PerigriNations*. Too much of the cast's time is spent fussily toting, tossing, bouncing and rolling about the giant silver balls and cage-like stools designed by Julie Watson. With its rampant flinging and writhing, the only place this Vegas-style piece seems to be heading towards is oblivion, although it does show off the company's fitness, drive and skill. Trust the dancers, not the dance.

DONALD HUTERA





**FILM**
Pfeiffer in a weepie

# ARTS

**POP**
Whigs and whinges

**CINEMA:** With *The Deep End of the Ocean* Michelle Pfeiffer confirms her intent to shed her delectable-doll image. **Giles Whittell** reviews the results

# Sadder, older, but is it wiser?



Mother in distress: Michelle Pfeiffer digs deep into family trauma — and emphasises her determination to shed her delectable-doll image — in her new movie *The Deep End of the Ocean*






Michelle Pfeiffer has made another very serious film. Her last, *A Thousand Acres*, told the story of a rancid old father dividing his land, Lear-like, between three adult daughters. It dallied in incest, cancer, child abuse and alcoholism.

This one, *The Deep End of the Ocean*, involves a mother who loses an adorable three-year-old and doesn't find him for nine years. It's all about shock, grief, remorse, marital strain and reconciliation, and everyone involved performs with talent and finesse.

But the image I took away was of Pfeiffer's pencil-thin plucked eyebrows wandering distractedly toward her fringe. It's not just the eyebrows. It's the protruding bones they should be protecting. It's the drawn cheeks, the pale make-up, the scraped-back hair, the pinched nose, the veined temples and the relentlessly pained expression. What happened here? Why is the siren of *The Fabulous Baker Boys* doing this to herself, and us?

To be fair, these emotional stretch-marks have less to do with Pfeiffer than with Beth Cappadora, whom she plays. They are the utterly convincing features of a woman on the edge of a nervous breakdown. The lost child nightmare is the worst most parents can imagine, but from the point of view of the novelist or film-maker it has the advantage of leaving grown-ups in the picture to emote, share dialogue and carry along a plot.

Ian McEwen discovered this in *The Child in Time*, in which the child goes missing in a supermarket and quiet hell ensues. Jacquelyn Mitchard used similar ingredients in the book on which this film is based. Meryl Streep put herself through the wringer in *A Cry in the Dark*, as did Nicole Kidman in *Dead Calm* (in which the child dies, flying through a windscreen early on, but the wrestling with guilt is of the genre). And the loss of a child was also the trigger of Nicolas Roeg's 1973 supernatural classic, *Don't Look Now*.

Pfeiffer's performance is at least as dramatic as Streep's or Kidman's. It opens in a crowded high school reunion in Chicago, to which Beth, as a proud Mum, brings her three children rather than a business card.

When cute Ben goes Awol he leaves only a half-eaten sandwich on the hotel floor. His mother is at first self-possessed enough to describe his sneakers and cap on live TV, but then she goes to pieces. She screams. She bites her husband's wrist involuntarily.

She sleeps for days on end, and the knowledge that she has stopped functioning as a wife to her husband or a mother to her other children only deepens her depression when she wakens — though unlike the rest of the family she refuses to pretend life can go back to normal. In one especially effective scene she breaks out of a mask of forced composure on Christmas Day to rail at her relatives for making light of Ben's absence by bringing gifts for him.

*The Deep End of the Ocean* is no sop to an ageing sex symbol. Its central performance is real and fearless, but with Pfeiffer there is inevitably a *Hello!* subtext. Because she was once *such* a doll, everything she does now is at least partly a study in the physical maintenance of a beautiful woman. How does she look? How is she getting on, given that, at 41, she's getting on?

To be honest, she looks as if she's had an unnecessary nip and tuck or two. Either that, or everyone else who goes under the plastic surgeon's scalpel nowadays asks to look like Michelle Pfeiffer. Whichever it is, her taut face and famously bee-stung lips add a continuous note of poignancy to an already sombre film.

*Daily Variety*, whose critics are read carefully within Hollywood, ranked her performance here as one of her very best and forecast a healthy few months for it at the box office. There is no reason to doubt the oracle. Amazingly, a recent survey of A-list stars found Pfeiffer to be the most commercially reliable of them all, including the $20 million-per-film leading men.

Still, she should lighten up a bit. A review of her recent filmography reminds us of *The Russia House*, with Sean Connery, and *Up Close and Personal*, with Robert Redford. Both were nicely acted, but neither was a barrel of laughs. Next came *A Thousand Acres*, whose script Pfeiffer's husband called "one of the best — and most malignant" he had ever seen. Filming it upset her deeply and "put an incredible strain on my marriage because I was so difficult to be around", she said.

She didn't work for a year, but then it was Mitchard's book she chose, optioning and producing it herself and casting herself as Ma Cappadora. She rejected an initial script as too sentimental, hiring Stephen Schiff, who wrote Adrian Lyne's *Lolita* screenplay, for a second attempt.

The result focuses overwhelmingly on her character (Whoopi Goldberg's lesbian detective appears in only a handful of scenes), and it hardly paints her sympathetically. "There were times during production," she said recently, "when I said to myself, 'Why am I doing this? What *was* I thinking?'"

Those are very good questions. At one point in the film her husband warns her that she seems to be making a career out of being unhappy, and back in real life she is taking the same risk. She can be funny (as in *Married to the Mob*) and she can still melt the hearts of men, so why not do a good romantic comedy? She will, almost. In an all-star version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* due out in May, she plays Titania.

## US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

| | | Film | Takings |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (1) | **Analyze This** (Warner Bros) | $15.7m/$18.4m |
| 2 | (-) | **The Rage: Carrie** (MGM) | $7.4m/— |
| 3 | (2) | **Cruel Intentions** (Columbia) | $7m/$13m |
| 4 | (-) | **The Corruptor** (New Line) | $5.9m/— |
| 5 | (-) | **Baby Geniuses** (TriStar) | $5.8m/— |
| 6 | (-) | **The Deep End of the Ocean** (Columbia) | $5.6m/— |
| 7 | (-) | **Wing Commander** (Twentieth Century Fox) | $5m/— |
| 8 | (4) | **The Other Sister** (Touchstone) | $3.9m/$14.3m |
| 9 | (3) | **8MM** (Columbia) | $3.6m/$25.3m |
| 10 | (6) | **October Sky** (Universal) | $3.1m/$16.8m |

● *First amount is estimated weekend takings. March 12-14. Second amount is total takings to March 9. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*

● For the second week Robert De Niro dominates the American box office with his Mafia comedy *Analyze This*. Top-earning new release is *The Rage: Carrie 2*, a sequel released 23 years after Brian De Palma's original. *Cruel Intentions* is a high-school version of *Les Liaisons Dangéreuses*

# Evergreen songs treated with wit

**CABARET**

**Michael Feinstein**
**Barbican**

As far as live British performances are concerned, Michael Feinstein has come and gone. But if you missed him, there is always the consolation of a new series of his illuminating "songbook" show on Radio 2 on Friday (7pm). The American pianist's love affair with the golden age of popular song always makes for absorbing radio. Not only does he know the music inside out, he knew many of the craftsmen — from Ira Gershwin to Burton Lane — who lived through the rise and fall of an era.

As a performer in his own right he has always been more of an acquired taste, as this Barbican show confirmed. The fastidious diction certainly gives him an edge in conveying the word-play intricately woven into so many vintage songs. He is funny, too — witness his lightning condensation of the score of *Oklahoma!*

Yet the voice often lacks colour and resonance once he moves away from intimate ballads. *The Best Is Yet To Come* and *The Tender Trap* should really be left to Tony Bennett. Beneath the suave repartee also lies an undeniably sugary streak.

None of this mattered as much when Feinstein played a glorious West End theatre residency a few years ago. But on that occasion he accompanied himself on the piano, his fingers constantly supplying terse asides and syncopations. At the Barbican, on the other hand, he made room for decorous, semi-jazz arrangements for sextet.

The impish Bobby Short, doyen of New York cabaret, has taken a similar tack on his recent albums, but with an altogether livelier swing band. If Short offers a tantalising hint of the Cotton Club, Feinstein came closer to the afternoon tea dance. *Slap That Bass*, taken at a more sultry tempo than usual with the guitar and drums slowly edging into view, was one of the few ensemble numbers to make an impression.



Feinstein: at his best when in a more intimate mood

Otherwise it was a question of waiting for Feinstein to put the band on hold and switch to a more intimate ambience. Patience was rewarded. As on his new Gershwin album, *Michael and George*, clever juxtapositions abound.

*Embraceable You* unfurled to the echo of fragments of more than a dozen themes, including *A Foggy Day* and *Love Walked In*. The member of the audience who vainly called a request for *But Not For Me* immediately heard Feinstein smuggle a phrase or two into his haunting version of *Love Is Here To Stay*. At his spontaneous best, he turns a concert hall into a saloon.

CLIVE DAVIS

# Cut out the lip, guys

**POP**

**Afghan Whigs**
**Astoria**

Now into their second decade, the Afghan Whigs from Ohio have had a lean time lately. They remain one of the most talented and respected rock groups to have emerged from the grunge era. But their poorly promoted album, *1965*, released towards the end of last year, gained none of the attention lavished on recent recordings by contemporaries such as Mercury Rev and Sebadoh, and they remain an act who can rely, at best, on a cult following in this country.

This, it seemed, was not deemed good enough, and at a well-attended show on *the last night* of a brief British tour the singer Greg Dulli started haranguing the crowd almost from the outset for responding to the group's performance with insufficient zeal. When one of the backing singers stridently weighed in with the same complaint, you began to wonder for whose benefit the band imagined the show was being staged.

Frankly, any lethargy that could be detected among the audience was doubtless induced by the long-winded and self-inflated nature of the gig. Almost every number began with an extended vamp incorporating segments of old soul songs such as *Papa Was A Rolling Stone*, *Superstition* and *Don't Stop Till You Get Enough*.

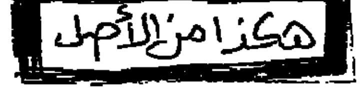
Meanwhile Dulli, drink and cigarette in hand, extemporised garrulously on subjects ranging from English cars to the "sexy" nature of the B minor chord, at one point spending the best part of 20 minutes introducing various band members.

*When the songs eventually* got under way there were some immensely powerful performances ranging from the soul-funk groove of *Neglekted* to the supremely muscular yet tuneful rock riffing of *66 and Crazy*. An interminable stretch of "encores" yielded a rip-roaring *Citi Soleil* followed by a formidable version of the Rolling Stones's *Beast Of Burden*, which was about the only number in the entire set to be played straight from start to finish.

A good enough singer to make a convincing John Lennon on the soundtrack of the 1994 movie *Backbeat*, Dulli fulfilled his musical role on the Astoria stage with bullish authority. But as his egotistical monologues became progressively more slurred and less engaging, so the rest of the band appeared to switch off and enthusiasm gradually dwindled.

DAVID SINCLAIR





**David Powell looks at the rejuvenated Great North Run, launched nationally for the first time today**

# Running success lifts party mood

FROM a brass band at the start to Status Quo, from a drop in numbers to a record entry last year, from British winners only in the early days to an international roll of honour embracing Olympic champions and world record-holders.

This is the BUPA Great North Run, about which they used to joke in Newcastle: "Look at all those people running across the Tyne Bridge. There must be jobs going in South Shields."

Given the recent redundancies in the North East, the joke may still have life in it, but the annual half-marathon mirrors the other side of the area — its energy and party spirit.

Newcastle was named by an American travel agency as the eighth best party city in the world and one of the challenges of a weekend at the Great North Run in October, according to Brendan Foster, the event founder, is in avoiding the temptations of the Saturday nightlife and preserving body and soul for the race the






next morning. The nineteenth Great North Run is launched today in conjunction with *The Times*.

"This is the first time that the event has been launched nationally rather than just locally," Foster said. Gone are the days when the Great North Run was dominated by Geordie accents.

In the past two years it has spread its wings. In 1997, for the first time, there were runners from all 120 postal districts in Britain.

Last year, after putting the entry form on the Internet, a record overseas entry was achieved, with runners from 25 countries.

For the first ten years, the event drew 80 to 90 per cent of its participants were from the North East. Now, 60 per cent are from outside the area.

First held in 1981, the same year as the inaugural London Marathon, the Great North Run is similar in size, if not quite punching weight. The London Marathon last year was completed by 29,924 people; the Great North Run by 29,613.

The Great North Run does not command the same attention but Foster believes that, by setting out his stall nationally, it is building towards a strength similar to the London Marathon.

"Our aspirations are led by London," Foster said. "The London Marathon is a fantastic event and, if people put us in the same bracket, we would be delighted."

Important in the Great North Run's development is its junior race on the Saturday.

"My ambition is to see a kid who wins the junior Great North Run go on to win the Great North Run," Foster said. Perhaps Philip Downes, the 1998 boys' champion, can fulfil Foster's dream, but, either way, he has set one record that is unlikely to be equalled — winning the junior race, then lining up for the senior event the next day.

Athletes must be under 17 to compete in the junior event. To be accepted for the big one, participants must be 17 or over. Downes won the junior title on his last day as a 16-year-old and ran the half-marathon, finishing 2,131st, on his 17th birthday.

For ten years, the Great North Run grew to a peak of 32,900 entries in 1991. Then it made a huge mistake, dropped to 26,800 in 1994, but recognised its error and corrected it. When numbers fell it was a consequence of staging the half-marathon world championships in conjunction in 1992.

"We frightened people off," Foster said. "They were saying it was no longer the race they loved. Now we don't do anything that upsets customers."

Hence, this year, there will no expansion on the 40,000 entries accepted last year, when thousands spent longer in car-park exit queues than it had taken them to run the race. Foster is determined to solve that problem before thinking bigger. The Great North Run roll of honour is impressive, including Carlos Lopes, Rob de Castella, Grete Waitz, Rosa Mota, Ingrid Kristiansen, Liz McColgan and Tegla Loroupe.

Last year Sonia O'Sullivan, the world cross-country champion, and Josiah Thugwane, the Olympic marathon champion, joined them. O'Sullivan touched on where athletics scores over football. "Thousands of people will go home tonight and say they ran in a race against me," O'Sullivan said. "They cannot say they went out and played soccer with Alan Shearer."

☐ For entry forms to the BUPA Great North Run on October 10, telephone the event hotline on 01538-702100, or write to 1999 Great North Run, PO Box 1RY, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1RY.



O'Sullivan: 1998 success

Expansion bridge: Forty thousand competitors make an impressive sight as they pour over the Tyne Bridge during the hugely popular BUPA Great North Run last year

**ICE HOCKEY:** BRACKNELL SHED TAG OF ALSO-RANS WITH BACK-TO-BACK WINS

# Bees put spanner in works as favourites face new challenge

BY MARTIN LEACH

SUDDENLY and unexpectedly, the "group of death" in the Sekonda play-off championship is shaping up to be that containing the champions, Manchester Storm, and Sheffield Steelers, the Challenge Cup finalists, this weekend.

Group B had looked like providing the real drama as eight clubs vie for four places for the climax in Manchester on April 3 and 4. A case for advancement could be made for Nottingham Panthers, Cardiff Devils and Ayr Scottish Eagles, with only Newcastle Riverkings the designated makeweights.

Bracknell Bees, though, have turned group A into a three-way fight. The supposed also-rans, alongside London, left their mark on the favourites, Manchester and Sheffield, inside 24 hours.

First, they reduced the Storm to something of a breeze with a 4-2 victory, then underlined why they are Sheffield's jinx team by beating the Steelers 4-3. The Steelers, fresh from their 4-3 overtime win in London, had seemed to be returning to something like the force of old, having lost just one of their previous 13 home games, but something in the Sheffield air appears to agree with Bracknell.

This was their third victory in four visits this season and they have won all but one of their seven meetings. Their *hopes of progress are also* enhanced by the injuries affecting Manchester Storm.

Brad Rubachuk, Storm's aggressive talisman of a forward, left Bracknell with his neck in a brace after a collision with the huge Paxton Schulte. He was one of four who missed the 4-1 dismissal of London on Sunday. Storm were so stretched that Darren Hurley needed medical clearance to play after being concussed at Bracknell. If the doctor had said no, a defenceman would have been drafted into the attacking line.



*Rubachuk, of Manchester Storm, is thwarted by Cardiff*

Nottingham Panthers have made giant strides towards reaching their third final of the campaign. If the Benson and Hedges Cup holders and Challenge Cup finalists take their expected win at home at Newcastle tonight, they can almost book their place. Ayr's desperate attempt to salvage something from a season of anticlimax proved insufficient against the Panthers' collective drive. They lost 3-2 and then slumped 6-3 in Wales against Cardiff, who have ambitions of making up for their failure to keep the Sekonda Superleague title from Manchester Storm.

## SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

| | Depth (cm) L | Depth (cm) U | Piste | Conditions Runs to Resort | Off/p | Weather (5pm) | °C | Last snow |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Austria** | | | | | | | | |
| Obergurgl | 60 | 290 | Good | Slushy | Varied | Fine | 4 | 08/03 |
| St Anton | 80 | 500 | Good | Slushy | Spring | Sun | 0 | 08/03 |
| **Canada** | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Louise | 145 | 180 | Good | Open | Powder | Sun | -4 | 15/03 |
| **France** | | | | | | | | |
| Alpe d'Huez | 157 | 340 | Good | Open | Spring | Sun | 5 | 08/03 |
| Flaine | 140 | 515 | Good | Slushy | Varied | Sun | 10 | 08/03 |
| La Clusaz | 80 | 280 | Good | Slushy | Heavy | Sun | 5 | 08/03 |
| La Plagne | 160 | 250 | Fair | Slushy | Heavy | Sun | 1 | 08/03 |
| La Tania | 110 | 255 | Good | Slushy | Spring | Sun | 5 | 08/03 |
| Les Arcs | 160 | 330 | Good | Slushy | Heavy | Sun | 3 | 08/03 |
| Megeve | 100 | 280 | Fair | Slushy | Spring | Sun | 2 | 06/03 |
| Méribel | 95 | 270 | Good | Slushy | Heavy | Sun | 9 | 09/03 |
| Tignes | 153 | 270 | Good | Open | Varied | Sun | 4 | 08/03 |
| Val Thorens | 200 | 370 | Good | Open | Heavy | Sun | 10 | 08/03 |
| Val d'Isère | 113 | 300 | Good | Open | Heavy | Sun | 4 | 10/03 |
| Valmorel | 105 | 250 | Fair | Slushy | Spring | Sun | 5 | 08/03 |
| **Italy** | | | | | | | | |
| Cervinia | 140 | 250 | Good | Open | Heavy | Fine | 3 | 11/03 |
| Cortina | 70 | 125 | Good | Worn | Varied | Sun | -3 | 07/03 |
| Livigno | 80 | 198 | Good | Hard | Spring | Fine | 5 | 08/03 |
| **Norway** | | | | | | | | |
| Geilo | 120 | 120 | Good | Open | Powder | Fine | -2 | 14/03 |
| **Switzerland** | | | | | | | | |
| Crans Montana | 100 | 290 | Good | Hard | Packed | Sun | 4 | 08/03 |
| Davos | 150 | 300 | Good | Open | Varied | Sun | 2 | 07/03 |
| Grindelwald | 40 | 250 | Good | Open | Heavy | Fine | 12 | 06/03 |
| Klosters | 90 | 290 | Good | Open | Varied | Sun | 2 | 09/03 |
| Murren | 90 | 350 | Good | Open | Spring | Fine | 10 | 06/03 |
| Saas Fee | 85 | 220 | Fair | Open | Spring | Sun | 2 | 11/03 |
| St Moritz | 70 | 120 | Good | Hard | Spring | Sun | 1 | 06/03 |
| Verbier | 85 | 188 | Good | Slushy | Spring | Sun | 10 | 11/03 |
| Villars | 60 | 240 | Hard | Hard | Spring | Sun | 3 | 08/03 |
| **United States** | | | | | | | | |
| Aspen | 138 | 160 | Good | Open | Varied | Fine | -8 | 13/03 |
| Deer Valley | 232 | 255 | Good | Open | Powder | Fair | 0 | 12/03 |

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes; U = upper slopes

**MOTOR RACING**

# BAR backs off over liveries

BY KEVIN EASON

THE dispute between British American Racing (BAR) and the FIA, the governing body of Formula One, should be resolved within two weeks after a climbdown by the sport's newest team.

BAR faced suspension from the sport after flouting the rules on tobacco sponsorship during its first grand prix in Australia a fortnight ago. The team launched its cars in the different liveries of two cigarette brands owned by its backers, British American Tobacco.

The FIA was angered when BAR's lawyers complained to the European Union because the liveries were banned. Max Mosley, the FIA president, warned that BAR had "put two fingers up" to Formula One and was jeopardising concessions negotiated with governments around the world over tobacco sponsorship because of its aggressive entry into the sport.

However, Craig Pollock, the BAR managing director, apologised to the FIA and said that lawyers had acted without instructions from him. He now has a fortnight to explain his lawyers' actions and prove that the team was not trying to usurp the governing body and rules agreed by all the teams in Formula One.

Mosley said yesterday: "It would not be fair to penalise the team if what Mr Pollock said was correct and lawyers were taking actions he knew nothing about. As long as we have that guarantee, the matter should be closed."

**MOUNTAIN BIKING:** DUAL SLALOM MAKES FIRST APPEARANCE NEXT MONTH IN RAV4 SERIES

# Wheel turns to confront elite with duel at high speed

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

IMAGINE riding a mountain bike downhill at speeds of up to 45mph over a course of jumps, banked turns and chicanes. Now add a second rider trying to beat you to the bottom. That is the dual slalom, or "duel", which is joining the established disciplines of cross country (a full Olympic sport) and downhill in the RAV4 mountain bike series and national championships.

The seven-event series, which begins on Saturday at Cheddar Gorge, Somerset, with a downhill-only meeting, *determines national champions* and international squads. The duel makes its debut at the meeting on April 24 and 25 at Hopton, Shropshire.

Will Longden, sixth in the duel World Cup Series, hopes his particular speciality will also claim Olympic status. "Downhill and duel are more the adrenaline, 'extreme sports' side," he said. "Cross country is the athletic side.

"In duel, the top 32 based on timed descents go head-to-head until there are only two left. It's supposed to be non-contact, but there is contact, as you can imagine." Not just with other competitors: plenty of contact is made with the ground, trees and other objects, so that as few as 30 per *cent of the starters make it to* the bottom without mishap.

Each event in the RAV4 series may attract as many as 400 entrants, divided into categories such as elite, veterans, masters, junior and "fun". The higher levels require licences and ranking points, but virtually anyone can take part in the lower categories of cross country, often simply by turning up on the day; downhill, being a timed discipline, requires qualification via regional competitions.

With the price of bikes at the top of the range approaching £4,000, sponsorship is, of course, a necessity for the elite group. Helen Mortimer, whose third place in the duel in the Grundig World Cup in *France last year was part of a* best-ever performance by a British woman, wears an outfit sporting as many logos as that of a Formula One driver.

"It's difficult for women to earn a living out of it," she said. "Men have better sponsorship — more money — but more women are sponsored percentage-wise, because they get more coverage," she said. "They can't jump as well, but possibly are more photogenic; most readers of mountain-biking magazines are men." Although she would only admit to making "a reasonable living", it was enough to allow her to spend three months training in Australia.

In the elite category, 5[?] downhill and 50 cross-country riders are professional to some extent. No more than ten exist only on sponsorship and the retainer paid by teams, usually run by bike manufacturers such as Giant UK. Others rely on prize-money, appearances and other sources of income: an entrepreneurial approach is required in what is a new sport still inventing itself.

According to Justin Lorentz, of *Mountain Biking UK* magazine, which runs a team that includes Longden and Mortimer, one of the best uses of funding is to enable British riders to travel to Europe, where the locals are able to ride regularly against wider fields and on longer and steeper, and so more challenging, courses.

Lorentz finds it encouraging that Toyota UK is sponsoring the Mountain Bike Series for a second year. "It's only been 20 years from the first bikes being cobbled together to it becoming a multimillion-pound sport," he said.

Attendances of around 2,000 are expected for the series events, but sponsors can expect to benefit from increasing TV coverage that will help, but not drive, the sport's development. "It's a foot in the door thing, then a momentum thing," Lorentz said. "It's better that the sport's good first, then televised later."

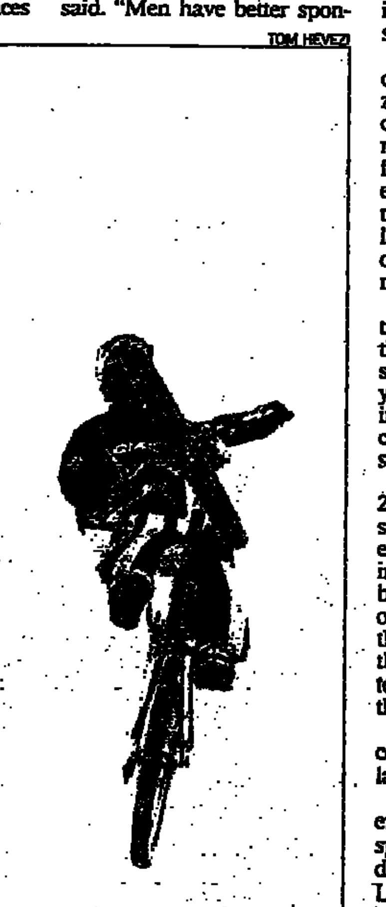
Longden said: "I think it could become a lot more popular, especially the duel."

Because of the danger inherent in so-called extreme sports? "If you think of the danger, you wouldn't bother," Longden said.

"I've been racing since I was five. I've broken an arm, dislocated a shoulder and smashed my knee up. It sounds a lot, but over 24 years it's not bad. And it's not compulsory."

TOM HEVEZI





The Giant team riders, Lewis King, left, and Mark Davis, take a jump on the 'duel' course.

**RUGBY UNION**

# Armstrong returns to fill problem position

By Mark Souster

HAVING capped two scrum halves in one international against Italy ten days ago, Scotland have reverted to the tried and trusted Gary Armstrong for the Five Nations Championship meeting with Ireland at Murrayfield on Saturday. Armstrong, who has made 43 previous appearances for his country, has recovered from the elbow injury that forced him to miss the victory over Italy. He also regains the captaincy from Eric Peters.

In Armstrong's absence, Iain Fairley, of Kelso and Edinburgh Reivers, made his debut against Italy, as did Graeme Burns as a replacement when Fairley hurt his shoulder. Armstrong, 32, is the only change to a 22-man squad announced in Edinburgh yesterday and is likely to be the one change to the team that will be named tomorrow.

Jim Telfer, the coach, seems certain to stick with an otherwise settled side, the benefits of which are readily apparent."It makes a huge difference," Telfer said. "It means we can get to work on the training ground straightaway. The guys who are not in the team are not there, because, at the moment, they are not good enough."

Into that category fall Matthew Proudfoot, the South African-born prop, who has yet to recover full match fitness after his lengthy absence through injury. Even if he had been fully fit, Telfer said that the form of Paul Burnell, a survivor from the 1990 grand-slam team, made him an automatic choice.

Gordon Simpson, the New Zealand-born flanker who was expected to establish himself in the Scotland pack this season, but whose prospects have been blighted by injury, will start another comeback for a Scottish Districts XV against the French Military in Glasgow tonight.

Armstrong thought he had broken his elbow after an incident involving Tom Smith two weeks ago, and Telfer will be relieved that the he did not do so, especially as Bryan Redpath will miss the remainder of the season because of his ankle injury. With Andy Nicol having only recently resumed playing, Scotland's scrum half locker looked decidedly bare.

Having captained Scotland against Wales and England, Armstrong watched the game against Italy on television. "Our defence was a bit slack. Italy seeemd to break through quite easily, and we will be looking to work on that this week. There is plenty to work on," he said.

His words were echoed by Telfer. "We were disappointed at how we played. The players fell below the standards they had set themselves, especially at the start of the second half. We are capable of scoring some very good tries but we got sucked into the middle far too easily."

Wales provide the opposition for Italy in Treviso this weekend and Graham Henry, Telfer's counterpart, has made one change to the side that won so handsomely in Paris. Gareth Thomas, of Cardiff, is preferred to Matthew Robinson, of Swansea, on the right wing. Thomas, the scorer of 14 tries in 31 appearances, came on as a replacement for Robinson against France. Surgery on an injured shoulder ruled him out of the earlier games, against Scotland and Ireland.

"Gareth has always been our first choice on the wing, but it is unfortunate that anyone should be left out after the win in Paris," Henry said. "Matthew had a disappointing game against France and clearly international rugby is a learning process for him."

Clive Woodward will today announce the England side to play France at Twickenham on Saturday. His one dilemma is finding a replacement for Paul Grayson at fly half. Mike Catt is the obvious choice and his selection would cause minimum disruption, but the temptation might be to switch Jonny Wilkinson to a position he is expected to make his own in the not too distant future. However, in the continued absence of Will Greenwood, that does not appear a realistic option at present.

Oswestry have appealed against the decision to dock them 90 league points for playing a a suspended player under an alias. The Shropshire side, who had led the North Midlands second division, were found guilty of including Ross Roberts, a former Wrexham centre, under the name of Terry Smith. Roberts was banned for a year last season for assaulting a referee.


Chapman was the leading tryscorer in the English game last season but now finds himself on the rugby scrapheap

# Chapman cast out into cold

**Mark Souster on a player suffering the effects of the chill winds starting to blow through professional rugby**

Nine months ago, Dominic Chapman made his debut for England against Australia after a memorable first season with Richmond in which he finished as the top tryscorer in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. This week he is putting his flat on the market, selling his car and signing on at the social security office in Kingston. He is among the first victims of professional rugby's recession, but certainly will not be the last.

That will be of scant consolation to Chapman, 23, as he attempts to pull together the threads of his life that unravelled so suddenly last week when his contract was terminated by the administrators at Richmond. Today he meets with the others who suffered a similar fate — Laurent Cabannes, Adrian Davies and Jim Hamilton-Smith.

Over lunch they will discuss what they should, or can, do. They have approached the Professional Rugby Players Association for help, but in their hearts they all realise that there is little prospect of receiving any money, let alone finding another club in the present climate.

"It was pretty brutal," Chapman said yesterday. "We had been called to attend a meeting with the administrators last Wednesday at which we were to be told what was happening. An hour beforehand the phone went, and I was told I was out there and then. I asked what I was going to get, and was told 'absolutely nothing'."

Chapman scored 31 league and cup tries last season after moving from Harlequins, a strike-rate that had Ireland and England coveting his services. He returned from England's summer tour like many, chastened by the experience but determined to improve as a player.

"I started the season fitter, faster and stronger than ever. But it soon became clear that I wasn't going to get many games," he said. For some reason, which he was never explained to him, he fell out of favour with John Kingston, the Richmond director of rugby. The situation deteriorated rapidly. Chapman became disillusioned by his inability to impress Kingston and his confidence suffered. The writing was on the wall and he knew he would not be retained this summer, but had hoped to use the remaining three months of his contract to sort out his future.

Now he has no idea which direction his life will take. He abandoned a university degree on leaving Harlequins and has no other professional qualifications. "I haven't a clue what I'm going to do. I am not looking forward to signing on," he said.

He denies claims made by Kingston at the weekend that he is about to retire from rugby, mentally scarred by his experience in Australia, and may try to carry on in the professional game. "Maybe things will get better after the World Cup," he said.

**SPEEDWAY**

# Van Straaten relishes uncertainty

By Tony Hoare

AFTER a winter of discontent, the season that opened last night at Reading is a vital one for speedway. The British Speedway Promoters' Association (BSPA), which governs the sport, has changed its chairman, replacing Terry Russell with Chris van Straaten, and decided to reduce the standard of the Elite League, its flagship competition.

The ensuing manoeuvres from clubs descended into farce. Belle Vue announced they would drop into the Premier League before realising they could not field a competitive team at the lower level. They swapped places with King's Lynn, who then decided they could not afford to stay in the top flight and dropped down.

Swindon, the Elite League club which insisted on pay controls at the start of the winter before realising their riders would not agree to the new rates, then declared their intention either to step into the Premier League or to pull out of speedway. Finally, King's Lynn, who had unearthed further investment that included a deal to bring in Tony Rickardsson, the world champion, agreed to return to the Elite League and replace Swindon.

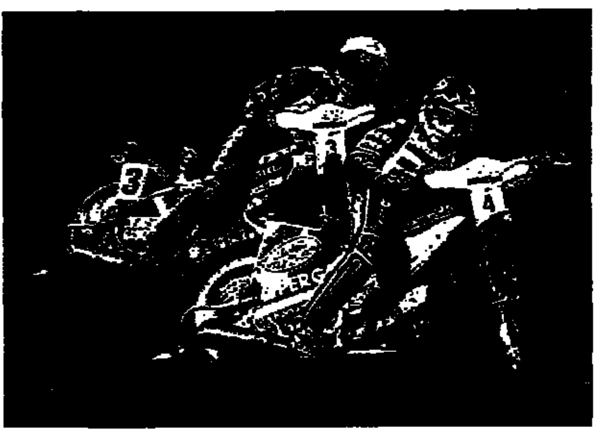
There was, at least, some good news for the Premier League with the rebirth of Workington after an 11-year absence and, at the very last minute, Berwick were rescued from apparent closure.

Fixture lists were released just days before the start of the campaign — which began with a challenge match at the Smallmead Stadium between Reading and Newport last night — and team strength controls forced clubs to sideline several top-class riders, notably Billy Hamill, the world champion of three years ago.

Van Straaten, however, enters his first season in optimistic mood, believing the knock-on effect of change is a necessary evil. "It has been a long, hard winter but when we come to the starting tapes we will have all of last year's tracks and one extra one because Workington has opened," he said.

"I'm excited about what is ahead. We have evenly matched teams and it would take a brave man to predict the winners of this year's leagues. There is uncertainty again, which is something we missed last year when everyone had their money on Ipswich before the season started."

The reduced strength of the Elite League has enabled Hull and Peterborough to step up from the Premier, both under new promotions, and the title race is likely to be close as there is little between any of the ten teams.


Rickardsson, the world champion, to ride for King's Lynn

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

Today's hand comes from the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, one of the more popular events in the American bridge calendar. This is a teams event with matchpointed pairs scoring. All you have to do is score better than your opponents at the other table: that could be just 20 points better or 2,000 – it's all the same thing. It makes for some very exciting bidding and play but is hard on the nerves.

**Dealer West — Game all — Board-a-match**

North: ♠ A 10 9 7 ♡ A 10 4 ♢ J 8 6 3 ♣ 5 2

West: ♠ K Q 4 ♡ 6 3 ♢ 7 2 ♣ J 10 8 6 4 3

East: ♠ J 8 3 2 ♡ K Q J 9 5 2 ♢ 5 4 ♣ Q

South: ♠ 6 5 ♡ 8 7 ♢ A K Q 10 9 ♣ A K 9 7

| S | W | N | E |
|---|---|---|---|
| – | Pass | Pass | 2 H (weak) |
| 3 D | Pass | 3 H | Pass |
| 4 C | Pass | 4 D | Pass |
| 5 D | All Pass | | |

Contract: Five Diamonds by South. Lead: six of hearts.

North would have done better to bid Three No-Trumps over his partner's overcall but his actual choice led to a respectable contract

Superficially, the contract does not seem interesting, since eleven tricks are laydown when trumps split 2-2, but declarer does not know that, remember.

Suppose you win the ace of hearts at trick one. If you draw two rounds of trumps you are fine if they are 2-2, but suppose they are 3-1. You cash your top clubs and ruff a club in the dummy but you can't get back to your hand to take a second club ruff without letting the opponent in to draw a third trump. On the other hand, if you take a club ruff before drawing trumps you may lose a club ruff to East.

The solution to your problem is very simple: duck the first heart – there is no danger even if hearts are 7-1; since even if the defence take a heart ruff you can discard a spade on the ace of hearts eventually. When East takes the first trick and plays a second heart, you can win and draw two rounds of trumps. Once trumps are 2-2 you can claim eleven tricks but, even if trumps do not split, your duck of the first heart has given you communications back to your hand via a heart ruff to arrange the second club ruff.



## KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, chess correspondent

### Cambridge victories

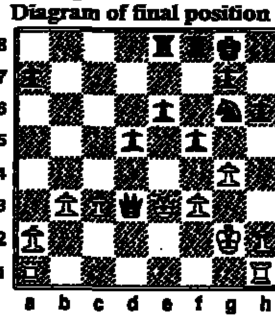
Today I conclude coverage of the annual Varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Oxford won no games and lost three. The game which won the brilliancy prize was published here yesterday. Today I give the remaining two Cambridge wins.

White: Benjamin Savage
Black: James Vigus
Varsity Match 1999
Torre Attack

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | d4 | d5 |
| 2 | Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 3 | Bg5 | Ne4 |
| 4 | Bf4 | c5 |
| 5 | e3 | Qb6 |
| 6 | Qc1 | Nc6 |
| 7 | c3 | cxd4 |
| 8 | exd4 | Bg4 |
| 9 | Ne5 | Bf5 |
| 10 | Nxc6 | bxc6 |
| 11 | Bd3 | e6 |
| 12 | f3 | Ng3 |
| 13 | Bxf5 | Nxf5 |
| 14 | Nd2 | c5 |
| 15 | g4 | Nh4 |
| 16 | Bg5 | Ng6 |
| 17 | Qc2 | Qc6 |
| 18 | dxc5 | Bxc5 |
| 19 | Nb3 | Bb6 |
| 20 | Qe2 | Qa4 |
| 21 | Kf1 | 0-0 |
| 22 | Kg2 | Rae8 |
| 23 | Nc1 | f5 |
| 24 | Nd3 | h6 |
| 25 | b3 | Qa6 |
| 26 | Be3 | Bxe3 |
| 27 | Qxe3 | Qxd3 |

White resigns

Diagram of final position



White: Alfred Nathan
Black: Emily Howard
Varsity Match 1999
Caro-Kann Defence

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | e4 | c6 |
| 2 | d4 | d5 |
| 3 | e5 | Bf5 |
| 4 | Nc3 | h5 |
| 5 | Bd3 | Bxd3 |
| 6 | Qxd3 | e6 |
| 7 | Nge2 | Qb6 |
| 8 | 0-0 | Qa6 |
| 9 | a3 | Qxd3 |
| 10 | cxd3 | Ne7 |
| 11 | b4 | Nf5 |
| 12 | Rb1 | Nd7 |
| 13 | Bd2 | Be7 |
| 14 | Rfc1 | g6 |
| 15 | Nd1 | 0-0 |
| 16 | Rb3 | Rfc8 |
| 17 | f4 | a6 |
| 18 | g3 | Kg7 |
| 19 | h3 | Rh8 |
| 20 | Kg2 | Bd8 |
| 21 | g4 | hxg4 |
| 22 | hxg4 | Nh6 |
| 23 | Ne3 | Be7 |
| 24 | Ng3 | Rh7 |
| 25 | Rh1 | Rah8 |
| 26 | e4 | Ng8 |
| 27 | Rxh7+ | Kxh7 |
| 28 | Rb1 | Kg7 |
| 29 | f5 | gxf5 |
| 30 | gxf5 | Bg5 |
| 31 | f6+ | Kg6 |
| 32 | Ne2 | Nh6 |
| 33 | Rh1 | Rh7 |
| 34 | Rg1 | Nf5 |
| 35 | Nxf5 | Kxf5 |
| 36 | Bxg5 | Kxg5 |
| 37 | Kf3+ | Kh6 |

Black resigns

### Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

In yesterday's report it should have been stated that James Vigus is from Clare College.

**FOOTBALL: NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR CHAMPIONS**

# Celtic build their vision for future

By Phil Gordon

CELTIC yesterday introduced a new chief executive, who promised to take the Scottish champions to the heights that he scaled in the business world.

Allan MacDonald, the managing director of British Aerospace, was brought to Celtic Park by Fergus McCann, the outgoing chairman, who described the 47-year-old recruit as "someone who will do the job much better than I have done".

McCann, the majority shareholder at Celtic, has a remit that straddles both the plc and football club, and only last month appointed Frank O'Callaghan, a prominent hotel-chain executive, to take over as chairman of the plc. What McCann, O'Callaghan and now MacDonald share, apart from their success in various business enterprises, is their lifelong love of Celtic, which they can now indulge in a bid to restore the club to its former position of power.

All were young men when Celtic won the European Cup in 1967 and reached another final three years later and MacDonald wants that prestige to return, hoping to better Manchester United's rebirth of the Nineties. "I want to build on the foundations here and develop Celtic plc into the most successful British club, in all regards, but especially in terms of Europe," he said.

MacDonald, who retained his Celtic season ticket despite living in London, was a teenager when Celtic won the European Cup but does not have a romantic notion of the future.

He said: "Celtic have always been part of the European scene and we must try to get back the great success of the Sixties and Seventies. However, the dynamic of football economics are changing. Celtic need to be part of that, especially if it is a European league."

MacDonald has spent most of his working life with British Aerospace, where he was responsible for the Jetstream aircraft, and was appointed OBE in 1996 for services to aviation. His appointment heightens a blue-chip plc board at Celtic, which includes Brian Quinn, a former Bank of England director.

McCann, who is moving abroad within the next two months, insisted that this was the kind of structure football clubs need to maximise their potential. "Celtic has to grow if it wants to be a success in Europe," he said. "We have built a good platform over the last five years, but you need the resources and business ability to market the product."

Rangers yesterday entered the race to sign the Dutch forward, Michael Mols, 27, the Dutch forward, from FC Utrecht. Mols was shown around Ibrox in a bid to persuade him to choose the Scottish club when he becomes a free agent in the summer. Sheffield Wednesday, Marseilles and Ajax are also interested.

The Scottish Football Association yesterday fined Dick Advocaat, the Rangers manager, £1,000 and "severely censured" him for his behaviour against Dunfermline at East End Park last month.

# McAllister gives Brown a boost

By Our Sports Staff

GARY McALLISTER has revealed that the ankle injury he sustained against Blackburn Rovers last Saturday is not serious, which is a great boost for Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, and Coventry City, his FA Carling Premiership club.

McAllister, 34, feared the worst after limping off the field at Highfield Road, but X-rays have shown nothing worse than bruising and swelling and McAllister is "very hopeful" of returning against Arsenal on Saturday.

He said there would be "no problem" with the ankle in relation to Scotland's European championship games with Bosnia and the Czech Republic at the end of the month if, as expected, he is recalled to the squad by Brown.

McAllister has been in prime form in recent weeks for Coventry after putting behind him a nine-month layoff with a knee injury, which prevented him playing in the World Cup finals in France last summer. Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, will be heartened by the news from his midfield player, as his side remain in relegation trouble despite a recent revival.

A relieved McAllister said yesterday: "There is nothing broken or fractured in any way. We will give things a couple of days to settle down and I am very hopeful of being fit to play at Arsenal on Saturday. I'm generally a quick healer.

"I have to admit the ankle looked horrendous on Saturday and was really badly swollen. That's why I was taken straight to hospital when I had to come off in the second half.

"I'm so relieved, because the last thing I wanted was any more bad news after being out of action for the best part of a year with the knee injury."

McAllister has always harboured hopes of earning an international recall after missing out on France 1998 and his form, together with injury troubles for Scotland, could herald his return. Brown said: "I thought McAllister might be finished at this level, but he has battled back and has been playing brilliantly."

McAllister said: "It's nice when the Scotland manager says things like that and, in terms of my fitness, there will be no problem at the end of the month. Anyone who has known me for any length of time knows I never talk about my own form. I let others do that and first and foremost in my mind is the Arsenal game. Scotland is a fortnight away."

McAllister: on the mend

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HAWKSHAW
a. A falcon
b. A dead leaf
c. A detective

MOUFFLON
a. A muffet
b. A Muppet
c. A woolly

NOTAPHILY
a. A colt
b. Collecting bank notes
c. Celeb-worship

HELIODOR
a. A sun spot
b. A naturist
c. Golden beryl

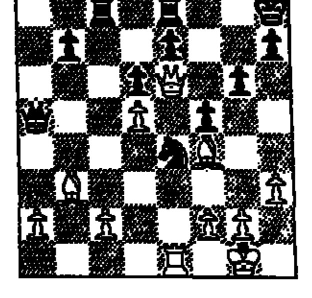
Answers on page 50

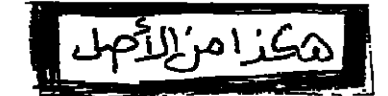
## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Geller - Knoppert, Berlin 1991. It is always a good idea to be aware of all the features of a position even when there are distractions. Here White has a promising attack against the black king, but it was the unguarded black queen that proved decisive. How did White continue?

Solution on page 50





**Chris McGrath meets a trainer banking on home advantage**


MARC ASPLAND


MARTIN LYNCH

Istabraq, left, brushed aside French Holly, right, with apparent ease at Leopardstown but Murphy is hopeful the tables will be turned this afternoon

# Istabraq tests Murphy's Law

IF A man begins with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties. Punters would do well to remember Francis Bacon's counsel at the Cheltenham Festival, where the credulous seldom finish in credit — especially in view of the fact that they start with apparently the biggest certainty of the meeting.

Few National Hunt stars of recent years have conveyed the same swagger as Istabraq, whose defence of the Smurfit Champion Hurdle today has appeared impregnable since he flaunted his brilliance over French Holly at Leopardstown in January. He is quoted as low as 2-1 on to justify "Festival banker" status for the third year running. Yesterday, however, the trainer of French Holly sought to embolden those who reach their certainties by the harder road.

Ferdy Murphy is not a trainer who puffs his hopes with vanity or delusion. His excellent Festival record (he can boast three winners at the past three Festivals from just eight runners) reveals the hard bedrock to the Irish wits that afford him such ease of manner. On that same foundation he has built the earnest belief that French Holly — humiliated in Dublin, where Charlie Swan produced Istabraq on the bridle while grinning at the grandstand — can gain his revenge on home soil.

Cheltenham 99 Festival

Indeed, the exiled Irishman believes that his adopted base in Yorkshire gives him a very meaningful home advantage. "He has run three times in Ireland and each time has run below our expectations," he said. "Each time he has come back a little dead in himself. He spends almost all his time turned out and it wouldn't have been ideal for him to spend 24 hours stuck in a lorry."

The giant French Holly certainly endured a tiring journey. Originally due to be flown to Ireland, he was stranded by fog and sent back to Middleham; halfway through his supper he was scrambled back into the horsebox to make a dash for a last-minute vacancy on the ferry.

At his best, French Holly can maintain a furious gallop and still find extra off the bridle. In Ireland, his response to Istabraq's acceleration seemed tame compared with the ravenous final half-mile he produced in, say, the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton or in the Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle at the Festival last year.

Murphy is sanguine. "I said to Adrian [Maguire] that he should just give the horse a squeeze at the second last and a slap to see how much was in the tank. We didn't want to leave everything behind in Ireland. If Istabraq went by easily, he wasn't to have a hard time. Everything we've planned for is tomorrow.

EXPERTS' VIEW

"The whole idea of going over there was to make sure Istabraq had a race before Cheltenham. My lad has a fantastic temperament and the chink in Istabraq is that he might boil over. So we had to make sure they had to train him properly, not just fiddle around with him as they could before Leopardstown last year. They more or less left him alone then, but we wanted to make sure they needed him at 90 per cent rather than 75."

Andrew Thornton, absent then through injury, is back in the saddle today and presumably he will try to draw the favourite's sting from the top of the hill. "Both horses are obviously effective at Cheltenham but French Holly will prefer it to Leopardstown," Murphy said. "He's fresh and well — as well as he was before Cheltenham last year."

On that occasion French Holly trounced his fellow novices. True, he has dropped in distance but has already shown his flair over two miles round the sharp, flat course at Kempton.

With the dead ground expected to bleed the stamina on the final climb to the line, this time French Holly will surely give Istabraq something more closely resembling a run for his money. There is, at least, reason enough to begin the Festival with doubts.

## THE BIG RACE FIELD C4

**3.15 SMURFIT CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY**
(Grade I: £138,000: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

**1** 10-2554 **BELLATOR** 17 (D,G,S) Miss V Williams 8-12-0 ........ N Williamson 133
Owner: P Richardson Record: 3 wins from 13 starts, prize-money £38,230
Running on in sixth when brought down at the final flight in last year's race. His efforts this season seem to confirm he would prefer a much stiffer test of stamina.

**2** 1111-4F2 **BLOWING WIND** 17 (B,BF,C,D,G,S) M Pipe 6-12-0 ........ R Dunwoody 136
Owner: P Deal 4 wins from 18 starts, prize-money £69,537
Landed some big bets when winning the County Hurdle here 12 months ago. Has not progressed as anticipated though and has been rejected by stable jockey Tony McCoy.

**3** 12-4232 **CITY HALL** 31 (V,D,G,S) Mrs V Ward 5-12-0 ........ R Thornton 144
Owner: Mrs R Key and Mrs V Ward 2 wins from 9 starts, prize-money £50,189
Front-running grey who found only Upgrade too strong in the Triumph Hurdle last year and ran a cracker in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury a month ago. Each-way claims.

**4** 11-P212 **FRENCH HOLLY** 51 (C,D,F,G,S) F Murphy 8-12-0 ........ A Thornton 150
Owner: K Flood 6 wins from 14 starts, prize-money £130,485
The top novice last season and has progressed again. Flattered to finish within a length of Istabraq at Leopardstown in Januray but may again give him most to do.

**5** 1-11261 **GREY SHOT** 19 (CD,G,S) I Balding 7-12-0 ........ J Osborne 143
Owner: R Hitchins 5 wins from 8 starts, prize-money £83,483
Smart stayer on the Flat. Has not always looked a natural over timber but he won over course and distance in December and will be suited by the drying ground.

**6** 12-1111 **ISTABRAQ** 51 (CD,F,G,S) A P O'Brien (Ire) 7-12-0 ........ C F Swan 162
Owner: J P McManus 14 wins from 16 starts, £485,185
Emphatic winner last year and has looked even better this season. Will be the shock of the meeting if this outstanding champion fails to successfully defend his title.

**7** 11/3312 **MIDNIGHT LEGEND** 19 (D,F,G,S) D Nicholson 8-12-0 ........ A Dobbin 119
Owner: Mrs H Clarke 4 wins from 8 runs, prize-money £68,051
Former stallion who has run with credit this season. Could not peg back Grey Shot at Wincanton last time though and that suggests he will be a supporting player.

**8** 06/11UU **MISTER MOROSE** 80 (D,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-12-0 ........ C Llewellyn 145
Owner: Mrs J Mould 5 wins from 12 starts, prize-money £44,841
Reverts to hurdles after an unsuccessful spell over fences – something Beech Road did when winning 1989. Goes well fresh so do not be put off by his lengthy absence.

**9** -121251 **NOMADIC** 24 (D,S) N Meade (Ire) 5-12-0 ........ P Carberry 118
Owner: D Sharkey 5 wins from 11 starts, £62,672
Finished a close third in the Triumph Hurdle last year and has trained on this campaign. Twice put firmly in his place by Istabraq, however, and would prefer softer ground.

**10** 320-443 **THEATREWORLD** 24 (BF,D,S) A P O'Brien (Ire) 7-12-0 ........ T P Treacy 125
Owner: Mrs J Magnier 6 wins from 27 starts, prize-money £172,535
Runner-up for the past two years. Overhauled more positively ridden opponents late on last year and similar tactics may not reap such a reward this time.

**11** 1-21F16 **TIUTCHEV** 31 (BF,CD,G,S) D Nicholson 6-12-0 ........ M A Fitzgerald 122
Owner: Liars Poker Partnership 4 wins from 13 starts, prize-money £38,329
Travels strongly in his races but found little off the bridle when soundly beaten at Newbury last month. Needs things to go all his own way and easily passed over.

**12** P-3F0F3 **UPGRADE** 19 (C,D,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 5-12-0 ........ C Maude 123
Owner: M Archer and Mrs J Broadhurst 4 wins from 12 starts, £59,017
Made virtually all to win the Triumph Hurdle last year. Those exertions seem to have taken their toll this season, however, as he has not reproduced that form since.

**13** 41-1323 **ZAFARABAD** 51 (C,D,G,S) D Nicholson 5-12-0 ........ R Johnson 143
Owner: Mrs E Bains 5 wins from 9 starts, prize-money £64,857
No match for Istabraq or French Holly at Leopardstown last month and no obvious reason why he will turn the tables. Would be better served by a longer distance.

**14** 0651-11 **LADY CRICKET** 22 (B,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-9 ........ A P McCoy 103
Owner: D Johnson 6 wins from 13 starts, prize-money £108,179
Main hope of champion pair Pipe and McCoy. Ex-French mare looked an exciting prospect when winning on her British debut but was less convincing in a muddling race latest.

BETTING: Coral: 1-2 Istabraq, 5-1 French Holly, 12-1 Theatreworld, 16-1 Lady Cricket, 25-1 Grey Shot, 28-1 Blowing Wind, Nomadic, 33-1 Bellator, City Hall, 40-1 Midnight Legend, Tiutchev, Zafarabad, 66-1 Mister Morose, Upgrade.
Ladbrokes: 1-2 Istabraq, 9-2 French Holly, 10-1 Theatreworld, 18-1 Lady Cricket, 20-1 Blowing Wind, 33-1 Grey Shot, Nomadic, 40-1 Bellator, City Hall, Zafarabad, 50-1 Midnight Legend, Tiutchev, 66-1 Mister Morose, Upgrade.
Tote: 1-2 Istabraq, 9-2 French Holly, 12-1 Theatreworld, 16-1 Lady Cricket, 25-1 Grey Shot, 33-1 Blowing Wind, City Hall, Zafarabad, 40-1 Nomadic, Tiutchev, 50-1 Midnight Legend, Mister Morose, 66-1 Bellator, Upgrade.
William Hill: 1-2 Istabraq, 9-2 French Holly, 14-1 Theatreworld, 16-1 Lady Cricket, 25-1 Blowing Wind, 33-1 Bellator, City Hall, Grey Shot, Tiutchev, Zafarabad, 40-1 Midnight Legend, Nomadic, 66-1 Upgrade, 100-1 Mister Morose.

1998: ISTABRAQ 6-12-0 C F Swan (3-1 fav) A P O'Brien (Ire) 18 ran

# Dobbin faces fitness test

TONY DOBBIN has an appointment with the doctor at Cheltenham today before learning if he will be passed fit to ride Midnight Legend in the Champion Hurdle after a fall at Taunton yesterday.

Dobbin was unseated from Flahive's First at the third flight of the Melody Man Challenge Cup Handicap Hurdle and appeared to be kicked by another runner, Missed The Boat, as he lay on the ground.

The course doctor, Jeremy Budd, ruled Dobbin out of action for the remainder of the afternoon and made a red entry in his medical book, which means that the rider must pass the Cheltenham doctor today.

Budd said: "Tony Dobbin has a bruised knee where he was kicked and will have to see the doctor at Cheltenham before he can ride."

Dobbin, however, is optimistic. He said: "My knee is sore but it's been iced and I'm hopeful there will be no problem tomorrow."

He has also been booked to ride The Butterwick Kid in the Stakis Casinos Final.

# Bosuns Mate can set sail in finale

**2.00:** Traditionally a good race for the Irish, who have won four of the past eight runnings. They again mount a strong challenge, with **Cardinal Hill** and **Joe Mac** heading the betting. Cardinal Hill found Alexander Banquet just too strong at Fairyhouse last time, where he spoilt his chance with some sloppy jumping. Joe Mac failed to last home up the hill in the bumper at the Festival last year and his stamina will again be tested to the full. **Hors La Loi III**, trained by François Doumen for his three wins, has now joined Martin Pipe and is open to improvement, but may prefer softer ground. **THE FLY** was close to top class on the Flat, finishing fifth in the Derby and third in the St Leger. He looked a natural for the winter game when jumping fluently on his debut at Newbury, and can make his speed count here.

**2.35:** A fierce early pace is assured here, with **Nipper Reed, Aghawadda Gold, Wynyard Knight** and **Gris D'Estruval** all at their best when making the running. That should set the race up for a strong finisher, and preference is for **TRESOR DE MAL**. He was beaten a head by **Flagship Uberalles** in a match at Warwick last time, and is now 4lb worse off, but will be better suited by the way this is run and can reverse the form. **Cockney Lad**, a useful hurdler, could run well at a big price.

**3.15:** **Istabraq** sauntered home by 12 lengths from his stablemate, **Theatreworld** a year ago, and anyone who saw his demolition of **FRENCH HOLLY** at Leopardstown in January will find it hard to believe that the champion can be beaten. However, a combination of a bad journey to Ireland and having to make the running counted against French Holly that day. He should have no such problems here with **City Hall, Grey Shot** and **Upgrade** likely to force the early pace, and French Holly can floor the favourite. **Lady Cricket** (unsuited by small field when unimpressive at Fontwell last time) and **Tiutchev** (ruined chance by going wide around bends when favourite for Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury) look best of the outsiders.

**3.55:** **Step On Eyre** is unbeaten in three starts on soft ground this term, but this represents his stiffest task. **Kadou Nonantais** suffered his only defeat this season when trying to give 19lb to the useful Majadou, but his tendency to make the odd mistake may cost him dear in this company. **Unguided Missile** defied top weight in this last year and will go well if the ground dries out. **NAHTHEN LAD** has a good record at Cheltenham (two wins and a third from four starts), and can be forgiven his last run when pulled up at Sandown as he returned with a nasal discharge. With Richard Dunwoody on board, he rates a good bet at around 25-1.

**4.30:** **Time For A Run** has finished second and third respectively in the past two renewals of this race, and has been given some respite by the handicapper. **Clinton** has won two weak novice chases at Hereford and Warwick and faces a jump in class here, while **Linden's Lotto** has looked better than ever this season but has the weight to match. **Wandering Light** won over four miles at the Festival last season, and needed the run when third to Ramallah at Towcester. He will go well, but **TELL THE NIPPER** makes more appeal. Fourth in the William Hill National Hunt Chase a year ago, he is now a stone lower in the weights and has recently joined the Pipe stable.

**5.05:** **Galant Moss** has been heavily backed in recent days and is open to improvement now that he tackles this longer trip. However, he is unlikely to offer any value, and preference is for **BOSUNS MATE**. Beaten over an inadequate trip at Wincanton last time, he has solid claims judged on his earlier successes here and at Newbury. Moreover, he has scope to be better still.

ROB WRIGHT

**ROB WRIGHT**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2.00 The Fly | 3.55 Nahthen Lad |
| 2.35 Tresor De Mai | 4.30 Tell The Nipper |
| 3.15 French Holly | 5.05 **BOSUNS MATE** (nap) |

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.35 **AGHAWADDA GOLD.**

Our Irish correspondent: 2.00 Cardinal Hill. 2.35 His Song. 3.15 Istabraq. 4.30 Time For A Run. 5.05 Shannon Gale.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number Six-figure form (F—fell P—pulled up U—unseated rider B—brought down S—slipped up R—refused D—disqualified) Horse's name Days since last outing; F if flat. (B—blinkers V—visor H—hood E—Eyeshield C—course winner D—distance winner CD—course and distance winner BF—beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F—firm, good to firm, hard G—good S—soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating

## 2.00 CITROEN SUPREME NOVICES HURDLE C4
(Grade I: £45,960: 2m 110 yd) (20 runners)

| No | Form | Runner | Rider | Rating |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 101 | 12-1411 | ALL GONG 46 (C,D,G,S) (A Speelman) N Henderson 5-11-8 (White, orange and white striped cap) | M A Fitzgerald | 84 |
| 102 | 211 | ARCTIC FANCY 27 (S) (Cool Customers) J G Smyth-Osbourne 6-11-8 (Yellow, black hoop, chevrons on sleeves, hooped cap) | W Marston | 100 |
| 103 | 1 | AUETALER 26 (S) (Anfield Horobxes) M Pipe 5-11-8 (Red, white sleeves, red spots and spots on cap) | G Bradley | 87 |
| 104 | 0212 | BROWN LAD 26 (D,G) (T Hemmings) Miss H Knight 6-11-8 (Emerald green and yellow (quartered), white sleeves and cap) | S Durack | 119 |
| 105 | 11-12 | CARDINAL HILL 107 (BF,D,G,S) (J McManus) N Meade (IRE) 5-11-8 (Emerald green and orange hooped, emerald green and yellow quartered cap) | P Carberry | – |
| 106 | 050-22 | CARLYS QUEST 32 (V,BF) (J Williams Transport) J Neville 5-11-8 (Red, emerald green hoops, red sleeves, emerald green stars) | D Gallagher | 87 |
| 107 | 12-1121 | COLONEL YEAGER 30 (D,S) (Capt C Ryan) M Lynch (IRE) 5-11-8 (Dark green, dark green cap, light green star) | R Dunwoody | – |
| 108 | 30-4006 | COPPER SHELL 11 (Gallagher Equine Ltd) Mrs L Jewell 5-11-8 (Emerald green and white stripes, emerald green sleeves, white armlets, orange cap) | B Powell | 82 |
| 109 | 1-12142 | HOH INVADER 20 (CD,F,S) (D Allport) C Mann 7-11-8 (Red, black chevrons, white sleeves, black armlets, white cap) | J Magee | 118 |
| 110 | 12-11 | JOE MAC 79 (D,S) (J McManus) C Roche (IRE) 5-11-8 (Emerald green and orange hooped, white cap) | C O'Dwyer | – |
| 111 | 3-21132 | PERFECT VENUE 10 (BF,S) (Martin Partnership) N Henderson 5-11-8 (Orange, black disc, halved sleeves, black cap) | J R Kavanagh | |
| 112 | 1-10113 | PROMINENT PROFILE 17 (BF,D,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-8 (Red and royal blue stripes, light blue sleeves, red and royal blue quartered cap) | C Llewellyn | 123 |
| 113 | 00-1332 | RATHBAWN PRINCE 23 (BF,D,G,S) (T Coffrate) O Hughes (IRE) 7-11-8 (Red, black stars, black sleeves, green cap) | R Hughes | 77 |
| 114 | P-1011 | RICARDO 10 (D,S) (P Whelan & E Stratton) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-8 (Red and yellow (halved), white sleeves, red armlets, black cap) | N Williamson | 122 |
| 115 | PP | SAN SURU 94 (B) (Stall Jenny) C Von Der Recke (GER) 5-11-8 (Yellow, white diamonds, white sleeves, yellow cap, white diamond) | Mr M Keller | – |
| 116 | | SILENCE REIGNS 137F (Roach Foods Ltd) P Nicholls 5-11-8 (Red, white cross belts, hooped sleeves and star on cap) | J Tizzard | – |
| 117 | 1 | THE FLY 31 (D,G) (Hon Mrs J Corbett & J Hanson) B Hills 5-11-8 (Royal blue, silver striped sleeves, blue and red hooped cap) | J Osborne | 88 |
| 118 | 11/61 | WITHER OR WHICH 31 (D,S) (R Sinclair) W P Mullins (IRE) 8-11-8 (Emerald green, royal blue sleeves, emerald green cap, white star) | R Walsh | – |
| 119 | 111 | HORS LA LOI III 45 (C,D,S) (P Green) M Pipe 4-11-0 (Light blue, dark blue diamond and diamond on cap) | A P McCoy | 120 |
| 120 | PP | TREASURE CHEST 5 (V) (S Helaissi & A Love) M Pipe 4-11-0 (Pink, dark blue stars, pink sleeves) | R Greene | – |

BETTING: 9-4 Cardinal Hill, 7-2 Joe Mac, 5-1 The Fly, 13-2 Hors La Loi III, 8-1 Colonel Yeager, 12-1 Auetaler, 14-1 Wither Or Which, 16-1 All Gong, 25-1 Hoh Invader, Prominent Profile, Ricardo, 33-1 Arctic Fancy, Brown Lad, Perfect Venue, Rathbawn Prince, Silence Reigns, 50-1 Carlys Quest, Copper Shell, 100-1 Treasure Chest, 200-1 San Suru.

1998: FRENCH BALLERINA 5-11-3 G Bradley (10-1) P Flynn (IRE) 30 ran

## 2.35 GUINNESS ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY CHASE C4
(Grade I: £57,300: 2m) (14 runners)

| No | Form | Runner | Rider | Rating |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 201 | 2-10423 | ADVOCAT 16 (BF,D,S) (High Street Racing) N Meade (IRE) 9-11-8 (Emerald green and yellow quartered, emerald green sleeves, yellow armlets, striped cap) | N Williamson | – |
| 202 | 121-111 | AGHAWADDA GOLD 24 (D,F,S) (Ivy Syndicate) T Tate 7-11-8 (Terracotta, emerald green cap and tassel) | J Callaghan | |
| 203 | 2-22331 | COCKNEY LAD 30 (D,F,G,S) (D Daly) N Meade (IRE) 10-11-8 (Sky blue, yellow hoop, green cap) | P Carberry | – |
| 204 | 21-F340 | FEATHERED LEADER 80 (D,G,S) (M O'Connor) A L Moore (IRE) 7-11-8 (Royal blue, white stars, red cap) | C O'Dwyer | – |
| 205 | 305F244 | GAZALANI 9 (D,G,S) (Miss R Shah) P Brady (IRE) 7-11-8 (Black, red spots, black cap, white spots) | T P Treacy | – |
| 206 | 1-11211 | HIS SONG 51 (D,G,S) (D Lloyd) M Morris (IRE) 6-11-8 (Royal blue, red sleeves, white cap, royal blue star) | J R Barry | – |
| 207 | -582411 | NATIVE-DARRIG 18 (D,F,S) (W Kerwin) W P Mullins (IRE) 8-11-8 (White, red stripe and chevrons on sleeves, striped cap) | D J Casey | – |
| 208 | 005-115 | NIPPER REED 31 (D,G,S) (G Piper) R Simpson 9-11-8 (Brown and orange (quartered), emerald green sleeves) | A Maguire | 134 |
| 209 | 4362304 | NON VINTAGE 21 (D,G,S) (A Mann) M Chapman 8-11-8 (Red and yellow diamonds, white sleeves and cap) | W Worthington | 116 |
| 210 | 3411-71 | WYNYARD KNIGHT 46 (D,G,S) (Sir John Hall) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-8 (Black and white stripes, chevrons on sleeves, light blue cap) | P Niven | 133 |
| 211 | -221211 | FLAGSHIP UBERALLES 24 (D,G,S) (E Gatun) P Nicholls 5-11-0 (Red and white stripes, dark blue sleeves, white stars and stars on cap) | J Tizzard | 139 |
| 212 | 1-11121 | GRIS D'ESTRUVAL 10 (G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-11-0 (Royal blue, emerald green sleeves, white cap, emerald green spots) | A P McCoy | 136 |
| 213 | 12-1512 | TRESOR DE MAI 24 (B,BF,D,G,S) (J Moran) M Pipe 5-11-0 (Purple, yellow chevron, diabolo on sleeves) | R Dunwoody | 129 |
| 214 | -03F111 | MAKOUNJI 17 (B,S) (R Waley-Cohen) N Henderson 5-10-9 (Brown, orange sleeves, quartered cap) | M A Fitzgerald | 146 |

BETTING: 4-1 His Song, 9-2 Gris D'Estruval, 11-2 Aghawadda Gold, Makounji, 8-1 Nipper Reed, Wynyard Knight, Tresor De Mai, 10-1 Flagship Uberalles, 16-1 Cockney Lad, 25-1 Advocat, 28-1 others.

1998: CHAMPLEVE 5-11-0 A P McCoy (13-2) M Pipe 16 ran

## 3.15 SMURFIT CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY [SHOWCASE RACE] C4
(Grade I: £138,000: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

SEE ABOVE FOR CARD AND COLOURS

## 3.55 WILLIAM HILL NATIONAL HUNT CHASE C4
(HANDICAP) (£38,600: 3m 1f)(18 runners)

| No | Form | Runner | Rider | Rating |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 401 | 41P-P3P | UNGUIDED MISSILE 87 (CD,F,G,S) (D Harrison) N Richards 11-11-10 (Light blue, royal blue triple diamond, diamonds on sleeves and cap) | G Bradley | |
| 402 | 11-1264 | MACGEORGE 52 (F,G,S) (Mr & Mrs J Watson) R Lee 9-11-8 (Light blue and royal blue stripes, light blue sleeves, royal blue armlets, quartered cap) | A Maguire | 163 |
| 403 | 1-11PP2 | TAMARINDO 24 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 6-11-6 (Royal blue, emerald green sleeves, white cap, emerald green spots) | P Carberry | 161 |
| 404 | -412113 | RANDOM HARVEST 52 (D,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 10-11-5 (Dark blue and white stripes, red sleeves, white cap) | Mr A Dempsey (3) | 140 |
| 405 | P-12P00 | DOM SAMOURAI 17 (B,S) (B Kilpatrick) M Pipe 8-11-2 (Emerald green, scarlet hooped sleeves and cap) | C Maude | 155 |
| 406 | -111211 | KADOU NONANTAIS 31 (D,G,S) (D & G Mercer) O Sherwood 6-11-1 (Black, white hoops, checked sleeves) | J Osborne | 159 |
| 407 | 111-FU0 | EARTHMOVER 17 (BF,C,F,G,S) (R Penny) P Nicholls 8-11-0 (Yellow, brown disc, striped sleeves, hooped cap) | R Walsh | 123 |
| 408 | 122-111 | STEP ON EYRE 31 (D,G,S) (Duchess of Westminster) H Daly 9-10-11 (Yellow, narrow black belt and cap with gold tassel) | R Johnson | 157 |
| 409 | 604-52P | NAHTHEN LAD 25 (B,CD,G,S) (J Shaw) Mrs J Pitman 10-10-10 (White, black stars, white sleeves, black cap) | R Dunwoody | 160 |
| 410 | 51-1116 | CALLING WILD 52 (BF,D,G,S) (Hunt & Co Ltd) P Nicholls 9-10-10 (Black, yellow stars, black sleeves, yellow cap) | J Tizzard | 152 |
| 411 | 2/11415 | SANTA CONCERTO 24 (D,S) (J Cox) L Lungo 10-10-8 (Beige, red hoop, black sleeves, red armlets, red cap) | R Supple | 151 |
| 412 | 2P/P-3F | JATHIB 45 (F,G) (Crown Pkg & Mailing Ses Ltd) M Pipe 8-10-6 (Light blue, dark blue chevron, diabolo on sleeves, light blue cap, dark blue star) | A P McCoy | 136 |
| 413 | 21/3313 | KING LUCIFER 38 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs A Davies) D Nicholson 10-10-6 (Maroon and royal blue (quartered), royal blue sleeves and cap) | R Thornton | 157 |
| 414 | 252-P45 | FINE THYNE 38 (F,G,S) (P Wiegand) Mrs A Perrett 10-10-5 (Pink, dark blue hoops) | M A Fitzgerald | 140 |
| 415 | 3255/16 | BETTY'S BOY 66 (F,G,S) (T Benfield & W Brown) K Bailey 10-10-2 (Yellow, brown sleeves, yellow armlets) | N Williamson | 158 |
| 416 | 4U511-2 | EULOGY 25 (G,S) (M Cooper) R Rowe 9-10-1 (Maroon, yellow armlets, quartered cap) | L Aspell | 152 |
| 417 | F/1/110 | ISLAND CHIEF 17 (BF,D,G,S) (G Dilger) P Beaumont 10-10-1 (Grey, maroon hoop, maroon sleeves, grey armlets, quartered cap) | B Storey | 151 |
| 418 | 12U1331 | SHORE PARTY 38 (S) (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0 (Emerald green, white stars, emerald green cap, white star) | J Goldstein (3) | 142 |

Long handicap: Shore Party 9-1

BETTING: 7-2 Step On Eyre, 7-1 Kadou Nonantais, Island Chief, 10-1 Random Harvest, Calling Wild, 12-1 Nahthen Lad, Santa Concerto, King Lucifer, 14-1 Eulogy, 16-1 Unguided Missile, Macgeorge, Tamarindo, Earthmover, Jathib, Betty's Boy, 20-1 Fine Thyne, 25-1 Shore Party, 50-1 Dom Samourai.

1998: UNGUIDED MISSILE 10-11-10 P Carberry (10-1) G Richards 13 ran

## 4.30 FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CUP HANDICAP CHASE
(AMATEUR RIDERS) (£22,500: 3m 1f) (24 runners)

| No | Form | Runner | Rider | Rating |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 501 | -12104 | TORDUFF EXPRESS 38 (BF,D,F,G,S) (Two Plus Two) P Nicholls 8-11-10 | DOUBTFUL | 143 |
| 502 | -36111 | LINDEN'S LOTTO 23 (CD,F,G,S) (M Bailey) A J Martin (Ire) 10-11-8 | A Martin | 139 |
| 503 | 2-1112 | RIGHTSAIDFRED 40 (BF,D,G,S) (P Bull) Miss A M Newton-Smith 11-11-5 | P Bull (5) | 138 |
| 504 | -403P4 | TIME FOR A RUN 9 (G,S) (J McManus) E O'Grady (Ire) 12-11-5 | P Fenton | 141 |
| 505 | 436611 | SHANAGARRY 11 (B,D,F,G,S) (P Heffernan) F Murphy 10-11-5 (4ex) | J P McNamara | 136 |
| 506 | U5UF2P | TIME WON'T WAIT 76 (F,G,S) (Old Berks Partnership) R Phillips 10-11-4 | M Armytage | 143 |
| 507 | P-4420 | FRAZER ISLAND 45 (D,F,G,S) (Dr B Alexander) R Rowe 10-11-4 | T Cloke (3) | 146 |
| 508 | 0-4256 | ALL THE ACES 24 (BF,G,S) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 12-11-3 | J T McNamara | 134 |
| 509 | 14P-24 | STRONG CHAIRMAN 101 (F,G,S) (Hunt & Co Ltd) P Nicholls 8-11-2 | S Strange (3) | 139 |
| 510 | /31033 | CAB ON TARGET 45 (CD,F,G,S) (H Hurst) Mrs M Reveley 13-11-2 | A Dempsey | 129 |
| 511 | 4-3U1P | STRONG TEL 15 (BF,D,S) (T Neill) M Pipe 9-10-13 | L Jefford (3) | 119 |
| 512 | /111-3 | WANDERING LIGHT 40 (C,G,S) (Duchess of Westminster) H Daly 10-10-13 | N Bailey (3) | 94 |
| 513 | 3402-3 | ORSWELL LAD 13 (B,S) (R Wright) P Hobbs 10-10-13 | P Flynn (7) | 140 |
| 514 | 011-11 | CLINTON 118 (D,G,S) (E Thomas) K Bailey 8-10-12 | R Forristal | 13[illegible] |
| 515 | 6122P1 | CARLINGFORD GALE 21 (F,G,S) (Mr & Mrs D Gamble) T George 8-10-10 | P Maloney | 11[illegible] |
| 516 | 41/506 | NOYAN 45 (D,F,G,S) (C McGhie) K Ryan 9-10-8 | C Bonner | 113 |
| 517 | 1-P435 | IN TRUTH 45 (CD,G,S) (Mrs E Hoolton) S Gollings 11-10-8 | M Bradburne | 143 |
| 518 | 621122 | SCOTTON GREEN 38 (D,G,S) (Scotton Developments Ltd) T Easterby 8-10-6 | J Crowley | 138 |
| 519 | P22900 | TELL THE NIPPER 65 (D,F,S) (B Craig) M Pipe 8-10-5 | K O'Sullivan (5) | 144 |
| 520 | 1-3PF2 | STANMORE 12 (B,C,F,G,S) (Uplands B'stock) S Sherwood 7-10-5 | A Charles-Jones (3) | |
| 521 | F/PP52 | ELOUIS 10 (B,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 7-10-4 | A Wyse (3) | 115 |
| 522 | 433R-1 | CELTIC GIANT 17 (F,G,S) (R Gilbert) L Lungo 9-10-3 | B Gibson (3) | 122 |
| 523 | 123F3P | CRABAPPLE HILL 39 (B,F,S) (Bookies Runner) B Ellison 7-10-0 | Miss V Roberts (5) | 132 |
| 524 | U12FF1 | TREMALLT 38 (S) (Silkword Racing Partnership) T George 8-10-0 | A Ross (3) | 112 |

BETTING: 6-1 Clinton, 8-1 Rightsaidfred, 10-1 Linden's Lotto, Shanagarry, Strong Chairman, Wandering Light, Elouis, 12-1 others.

1998: IN TRUTH 10-10-0 S Durack (20-1) S Gollings 14 ran

## 5.05 STAKIS CASINOS FINAL (HANDICAP HURDLE)
(£28,950: 3m 2f) (24 runners)

| No | Form | Runner | Rider | Rating |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 601 | /45P31 | PHARANEAR 17 (CD,G,S) (Stainless Threaded Fasteners) D Nicholson 9-12-0 | R Thornton | 139 |
| 602 | 5/12-P | TORBOY 45 (G) (P Green) M Pipe 9-11-8 | R Hughes | 121 |
| 603 | 1-2112 | BOSUNS MATE 19 (C,F,G,S) (H Parker) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-9 | C Llewellyn | 141 |
| 604 | 1-41P1 | KINGS MEASURE 31 (G,S) (J Wilson, M Elliott & D Blackett) J Jefferson 6-10-9 | L Wyer | 136 |
| 605 | 222323 | GALANT MOSS 36 (G) (C, B & R Batterham) M Pipe 5-10-7 | A P McCoy | 143 |
| 606 | -11211 | FLYING GUNNER 32 (D,S) (Mrs R Sead) D Nicholson 8-10-6 | R Johnson | 136 |
| 607 | 112-16 | THREE FARTHINGS 38 (S) (Mrs J Britten) J Old 9-10-5 | G Bradley | |
| 608 | 0/P/32 | SWEET GLOW 95 (C,F,G,S) (M Pipe) M Pipe 12-10-4 | R Greene | 141 |
| 609 | 111123 | PAPO KHARISMA 74 (C,G,S) (Hedonists) P Hobbs 9-10-4 | R Dunwoody | 146 |
| 610 | -12134 | JAMAICAN FLIGHT 41F (BF,F,G,S) (P Lamyman) Mrs S Lamyman 6-10-3 | R Farrant | 116 |
| 611 | P-3313 | MELODY MAID 38 (F,G,S) (R Parish) N Henderson 7-10-3 | M A Fitzgerald | 142 |
| 612 | PP4-32 | EBULLIENT EQUINAME 38 (G,S) (L Wilson) N Henderson 8-10-3 | J Osborne | 141 |
| 613 | 13-250 | GENEROSA 86 (G,S) (Mrs T Hyde) J Hassett (Ire) 6-10-1 | N Williamson | – |
| 614 | F0P-P1 | NOCKSKY 31 (S) (T Neill) M Pipe 6-10-0 | P Carberry | 130 |
| 615 | 62U5-0 | JAZZ TRACK 65 (B) (M Jones) M Pipe 5-10-0 | Mr A Dempsey (3) | 120 |
| 616 | 214-P5 | GOOD LORD MURPHY 32 (BF,G,S) (Country Side) P Hobbs 7-10-0 | A Maguire | 123 |
| 617 | 4210-0 | ABOO HOM 18 (G,S) (Kammac Plc) M Pipe 5-10-0 | C Maude | 52 |
| 618 | -4152P | THE BUTTERWICK KID 15 (BF,S) (R Chambers) R Fahey 6-10-0 | A Dobbin | 129 |
| 619 | 0021/1 | SHANNON GALE 79 (S) (J McManus) C Roche (Ire) 7-10-0 | F M Berry | – |
| 620 | -34241 | NIBALDA 44 (S) (P Furlong) P Nolan (Ire) 7-10-0 | C O'Dwyer | – |
| 621 | 0P0-0P | HARBOUR ISLAND 22 (B,F) (M Jones) M Pipe 7-10-0 | C F Swan | 127 |
| 622 | FPU3-5 | JOLIVER 24 (D,S) (C Flead) M Pipe 11-10-0 | W Marston | 122 |
| 623 | P5-PS1 | ALLEZ WIJINS 29 (G,S) (Mrs C Hanbury) N Henderson 10-10-0 | J R Kavanagh | 119 |
| 624 | -00046 | CHIEF PREDATOR 27 (D,F,S) (No Win No Feed Syndicate) D Williams 5-10-0 | B Clifford | 114 |

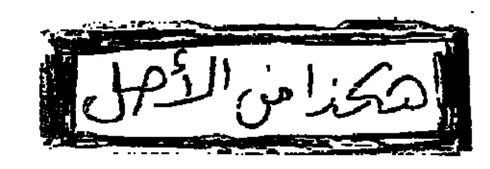
BETTING: 4-1 Galant Moss, 8-1 Kings Measure, Three Farthings, Shannon Gale, 10-1 Flying Gunner, Generosa, 12-1 Bosuns Mate, Melody Maid, The Butterwick Kid, 14-1 others.

1998: UNSINKABLE BOXER 9-10-12 A P McCoy (5-2 fav) M Pipe 24 ran

**COURSE SPECIALISTS**

| TRAINERS | Wins | Rnrs | % | JOCKEYS | Wins | Rnrs | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miss V Williams | 10 | 28 | 35.7 | A McCoy | 41 | 162 | 25.3 |
| W P Mullins | 5 | 16 | 31.3 | N Williamson | 31 | 151 | 20.5 |
| I Balding | 4 | 14 | 28.6 | J Osborne | 23 | 116 | 19.8 |
| Mrs J Pitman | 12 | 65 | 18.5 | R Dunwoody | 26 | 164 | 15.9 |
| C Mann | 6 | 34 | 17.6 | R Thornton | 6 | 39 | 15.4 |
| O Sherwood | 8 | 47 | 17.0 | A Maguire | 17 | 114 | 14.9 |
| M Pipe | 43 | 278 | 15.5 | P Carberry | 4 | 31 | 12.9 |









**RACING: SIMPSON THE SURVIVOR BANKS ON NIPPER REED GIVING HIM ANOTHER LIFELINE**

# Hoping for a Festival fairytale

BY ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT

In this of all racing weeks, reality is blurred by dreams and desires. For one man, though, the significance of the opening day at Cheltenham can scarcely be exaggerated. If ever a horse was running for his trainer's life, or at least his livelihood, it is Nipper Reed this afternoon.

Notoriety has grown around this blameless horse, named after the detective who arrested the Kray twins and owned by a man in custody on drug charges. Bizarrely, Nipper Reed's performance in the Guinness Arkle Chase now offers a final lifeline for the plagued and persecuted career of Rod Simpson.

The plight of Graham Piper, who not only owns Nipper Reed but most of Simpson's other horses and his yard in Wendover, is the latest misfortune to befall the most colourfully nomadic member of the training profession. Typically, Simpson remains determined it will not be the one that brings him down.

"I have had to move yards eight times," Simpson said. "Every time, the reason is different but this one was the biggest shock. The setbacks just hurt more as you get older. You are not so young and vibrant. It gets harder to shake down the old feathers and start again."

Simpson talked as he gazed out over Russell Farm, where the promise of contentment and security has exploded into shreds of uncertainty. His indomitably zany humour continues to shine through a dilemma that would leave others sour and embittered. "I'm just deciding whether I should offer to plough the potato fields down the road or take in some washing for the neighbours," he said. "I'll do anything, really."

The flippancy is gallantly false, for this time the eviction of Simpson is a grave matter in which he is entirely the injured innocent. Piper, twice remanded in custody by Crawley magistrates and facing another court appearance on March 31, has had his property put into receivership. That includes the farm and all his 30 horses and it means Simpson is once more homeless and jobless, if not quite horseless.

"I've still got a few horses for owners who have been good to me over the years, probably felt sorry for me really," he said. "Even if I only end up with a dozen or so, I want to carry on somewhere else because it seems to be the only thing people believe I can do.

> 'Training is the only thing people believe I can do'

"Every time I've lost a yard I have had to come back into training because I can't get another job. In the past few weeks, I've been applying for every racing job that has come up but no-one wants me. I've also seen three potential yards — two where the rents are ridiculous and one that has no accommodation.

"I feel most sorry for the staff here. We'd got into some good routines and it's a young crew — I'm very much the granddaddy. Hopefully, I'll be able to take two or three of them wherever I go, but it will be a survival thing for a while." Simpson, though, is well used to that.

He will not be taking Nipper Reed with him, for he is among the horses destined for dispersal at Doncaster Sales on March 29. But if jumping's theatre of dreams has one romantic result in its gift this week, look no further. He will be ridden today by Adrian Maguire, for whom the past four Cheltenham Festivals have been a wretched saga of absence, grief and pain and for whom the racing public reserve a special affection. Add the popularity of the enduring Simpson and there is potential for lumps in the most stoical of throats.

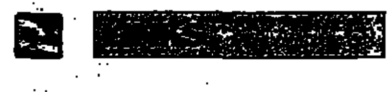
Simpson insists there is nothing fanciful in the idea and, for all the Irish confidence in the favourite, His Song, lines of form support his confidence. Nipper Reed won his first two races over fences — at Uttoxeter and Newbury — and then, raised in class against seasoned two-milers in the Mitsubishi Shogun Game Spirit Chase at Newbury last month, he was beaten by less than the ground he lost when being left at the start — an episode, incidentally, appropriate to the lucklessness of his 53-year-old trainer.

"The horse is in awesome form now," Simpson said. "I had finished with him after work last Tuesday, because he's never wanted to be hassled. He loves to be fresh and we are going there with all the optimism you must have for a runner at Cheltenham. And I don't worry about the ground, either. He'll be fine on it."

Simpson breaks off continually from the more earnest areas of conversation to tell ridiculous jokes, to inform me he hopes to sing a song about Nipper Reed on the Cheltenham public address and to regale me with stories of his exploits as a football referee. "I got the yellow card out to a bloke yesterday and he told me he had backed my horse. 'You won't book me now, will you,' he said. I did, though."

There have been many dates with destiny in Simpson's turbulent life but none quite like today. Quite simply, his first Festival winner would attract the acclaim and publicity to save his career.

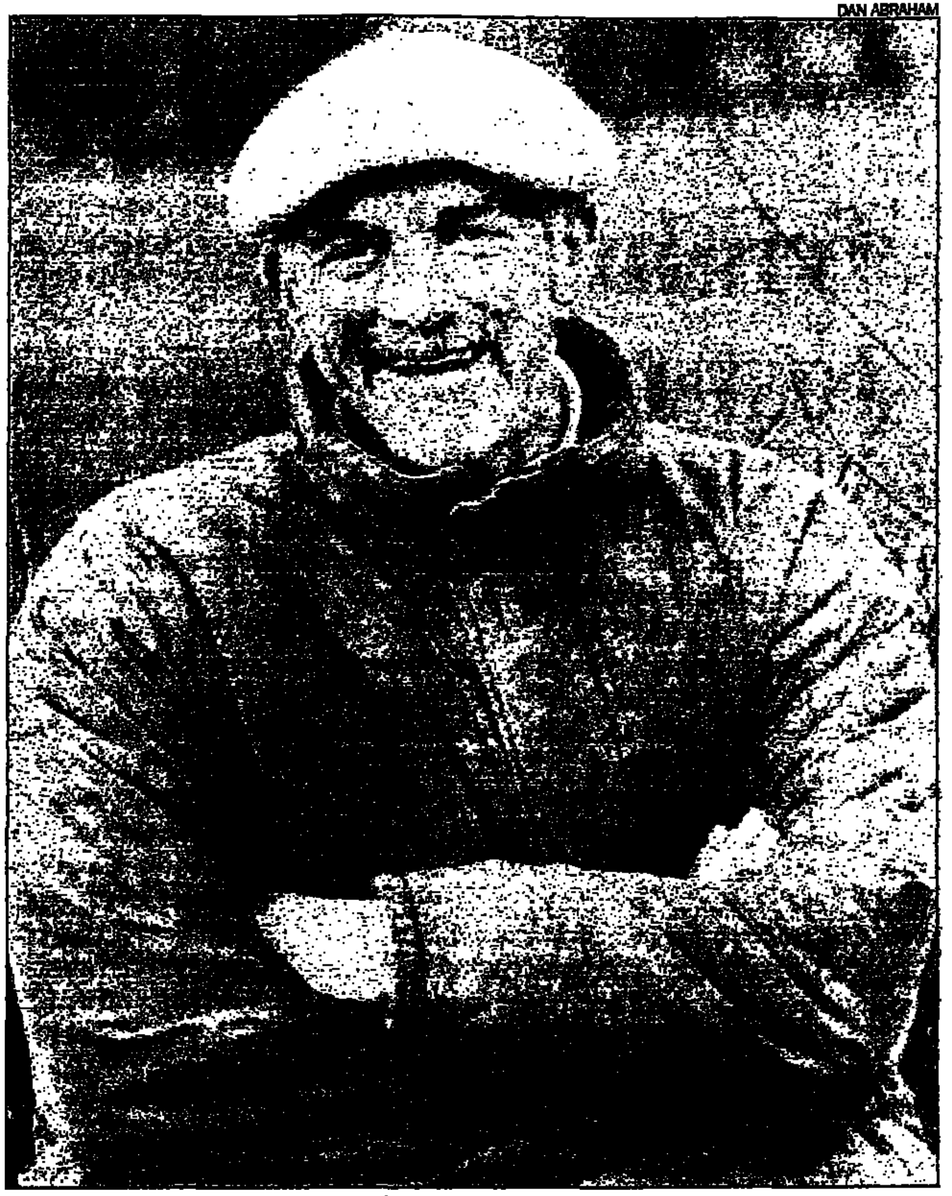
Defeat is as unthinkable as the consequences. "I have no intention of lying down and giving up, though," he said defiantly. "I can't. Even at my age, I'm too hyperactive."



**WEBSITE:**
www.cheltenham.co.uk — dedicated site

**TELEVISION:**
The Afternoon Line (C4, 1.00pm); The Cheltenham Festival (C4, 1.30pm); The Cheltenham Festival (Highlights) (C4, 11.40pm)

**THE TIMES CHELTENHAM HOTLINES:**
09064 700547 — Racecall commentary
09064 700548 — Racecall results
*calls cost 60p per minute



DAN ABRAHAM

Simpson has retained his sense of humour despite having to move yards eight times

## MEETING POINTS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY

Underfoot conditions: Standard, Hard, Firm, Good, Soft, Heavy

**SEDGEFIELD**
Jumps, 6 race card
1st race: 2.25
Winning favourites: 30.0%
TV: none
Long distance travellers: Farrah's Darling (3.35), Camden Fellow (5.20), 258 miles

**CHELTENHAM**
Jumps, 6 race card
1st race: 2.00
Winning favourites: 40.3%
TV: Channel 4 1.30-4.30
Long distance travellers: Sainte Concerto (3.55), Celtic Giant (4.30), 272 miles

**SOUTHWELL**
Jumps, 7 race card
1st race: 1.45
Winning favourites: 33.5%
TV: none
Long distance traveller: Sir Walter (2.50), 223 miles

EARLY BIRD
Best value this morning
Macgeorge
20/1 with Coral
3.55 Cheltenham

See racecards for detailed going



## SEDGEFIELD

ROB WRIGHT
2.25 Corbleu. 3.00 Heavy Hustler. 3.35 Cathedral Belle. 4.15 *River Unshion*. 4.50 Makin' Doo. 5.20 Helmsley Flier.

Carl Evans: 4.50 Makin' Doo

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

**2.25 MONKEY PUZZLE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (JOHN WADE QUALIFIER)** (£1,564: 3m 3f 110yd) (13 runners)

1 0535 TOPOTHENORTHRACING 15 (C,F,G,S) P Beaumont 9-12-0 B Grattan (3) [top]
2 0602 KAKASHDA 11 J Howard Johnson 8-11-11 L Cooper (7) 79
3 053U D'ARBLAY STREET 11 (B,CD,G,S) W Kemp 10-11-10 B Harding 67
4 P404 DOCKMASTER 8 (G,S) Miss K Milligan 8-11-9 R Guest 80
5 23P0 SAUCY NUN 39 (C,F,G) P Haslam 7-11-8 J Mogford (7) 78
6 0305 MR CHRISTIE 8 (G,S) Miss L Siddall 7-11-7 T Siddall (5) 78
7 045U GERMAN LEGEND 27 (F) D Lamb 9-11-3 J Burke 30
8 3-20 CORBLEU 90 (G) S Bell 9-11-0 K Johnson –
9 430P ANGUS AIRWAYS 31 J Norton 6-10-13 C Rafter (7) 69
10 0F50 WILLIAM OF ORANGE 8 (B) J Jefferson 7-10-13 A S Smith 61
11 000P OVER STATED 15 I Park 9-10-0 M H Naughton (5) 50
12 0PPP GOLD DROP 29 (V) M Mullineaux 5-10-0 S Wynne –
13 -046 INDIAN VICEROY 8 J Turner 6-10-0 N Horrocks (5) 47

7-2 Topothenorthracing, 9-2 D'Arblay Street, 5-1 Kakashda, Dockmaster, 7-1 Mr Christie, Angus Airways, 12-1 German Legend, 14-1 others.

**3.00 TOTE COURSE TO COURSE NOVICES CHASE** (£2,861: 2m 5f) (8)

1 F6P2 HEAVY HUSTLER 28 (CD,F,S) J Howard Johnson 8-11-9 C McCormack (3) [top]
2 P6P3 CHARMING MOSS 15 (G) D M Forster 8-11-2 J Supple 54
3 /395 EMPEROR'S MAGIC 28 N Mason 8-11-2 R Guest –
4 0560 FRYUP SATELLITE 28 (G) Mrs J Brown 8-11-2 Miss P Robson 95
5 -3F5 LORD ROLLAH 5 (D,F,S) J Wade 8-11-2 A S Smith 65
6 3-0U MR BRUNO 11 M Barnes 6-11-2 S Taylor –
7 /F0/ PRIME STYLE 738P (F,G) J Howard Johnson 10-11-2 D Parker –
8 65P0 DUXALL CROSSETT 17 E Caine 14-11-2 Mr O Fagan 56

6-4 Heavy Hustler, 3-1 Charming Moss, 4-1 Fryup Satellite, 7-1 Emperor's Magic, Lord Rollah, 20-1 Mr Bruno, 33-1 Prime Style, 100-1 Duxall Crossett.

**3.35 ALPHAMERIC RED ONION MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE** (£2,373: 2m 5f 110yd) (14)

1 1311 CATHEDRAL BELLE 47 (CD,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-12-2 G Lee [top]
2 00-P CEEJAYELL 14 G M Moore 6-10-12 T Hogg (7) –
3 80-0 CHANTILLY ROSE 89 Miss R Brewis 7-10-12 A S Smith 24
4 PP CUMBRIAN KATE 17 J Haynes 7-10-12 C McCormack (3) –
5 4-00 DAMARIS 15 R Allan 7-10-12 B Harding –
6 P0P3 DOUBLE BUCK 17 (B,S) W Kemp 7-10-12 S Taylor 57
7 5505 FARRAH'S DARLING 39 P Eccles 5-10-12 D Byrne 67
8 -5P6 GULE POINT 5 (B) D Lamb 8-10-12 J Burke 53
9 6504 HEAVENLY THOUGHT 77 Mrs D Thomson 8-10-12 D Parker 56
10 P ICEFIRE DANCER 18 N Mason 6-10-12 K Johnson –
11 5C/0 PENNY PEPPERMINT 115 R Barr 7-10-12 N Smith 21
12 B WOODFORD AGAIN 31 Miss K Milligan 7-10-12 N Horrocks (5) –
13 ELLA FALLS 176F J A Moore 4-10-3 Mr M Cogan –
14 D IRONSIDE PRINCESS 88F G M Moore 4-10-3 N Hannity (5) –

2-5 Cathedral Belle, 13-2 Farrah's Darling, 8-1 Double Buck, 14-1 Ironside Princess, 20-1 Heavenly Thought, 25-1 Ceejayell, Ella Falls, 33-1 others.

**4.15 ALPHAMERIC BET CAPTURE SYSTEMS HANDICAP CHASE** (£4,250: 2m 5f) (8)

1 P44P EASBY JOKER 75 (F,G,S) S Kettlewell 11-11-12 B Harding 79
2 U034 ROYAL MOUNTBROWNE 38 (D,G,S) Miss M Rowland 11-11-11 A S Smith 110
3 -3P4 BACK BAR 24 (G,S) D McCain 11-11-11 A C Coyle (5) 82
4 2122 RIVER UNSHION 45 (CD,F,G,S) J Howard Johnson 9-11-10 D Parker [top]
5 3134 NOSAM 16 (CD,F,G,S) N Mason 9-11-3 R Guest 116
6 P-P6 MR FUDGE 20 (F,G,S) M Sowersby 12-10-5 M H Naughton (5) 68
7 P002 ANOTHER RED 28 (CD,F,S) W Raw 11-10-0 W Dowling (5) 88
8 P0BP COPPERHURST 14 (G,S) W Kemp 8-10-0 L Cooper (7) 114

2-1 River Unshion, 7-2 Royal Mountbrowne, 9-2 Nosam, 7-1 Another Red, 8-1 Easby Joker, 12-1 Back Bar, Mr Fudge, 16-1 Copperhurst.

**4.50 TOTE TRIO HUNTERS CHASE** (£1,277: 3m 3f) (14)

1 2-UP FAST STUDY 23P (F,G,S) S J Robinson 14-12-10 Mr S Robinson (7) –
2 5/0- MAJIC RAIN 474 (CD,F,G,S) Allan Dickman 14-12-10 Mr C Mulhall (7) –
3 43/5 INTEGRITY BOY 23P (F,G,S) Miss A Armitage 12-12-7 Miss A Armitage (7) –
4 3-22 LINCATHEN 16P (BF,F,G,S) Mrs A Bell 9-12-7 Mr N M Bell (7) 83
5 4/13 TRADE DISPUTE 19 (F,G) E W Tuer 7-12-7 Mr G Tuer (7) 33
6 42-1 HILTONSTOWN LASS 11 (C,G,S) T Walford 9-12-5 Mr R Walford (7) [top]
7 P-46 CRASHBALLOO 16P J Wade 8-12-0 Mr C Wilson (3) –
8 5/31 DROMORE DREAM 23P (G) Mrs J Newitt 10-12-0 Mr G Markham (7) –
9 23-4 FISCAL POLICY 40 (F,G,S) A Trotter 11-12-0 Mr R Trotter (7) 14
10 -311 MAKIN' DOO 23P (F,G,S) R G Makin 9-12-0 Mr A Parker (3) 52
11 3-P3 MISCHIEVOUS ANDY 30P (G) A Balmer 10-12-0 Mrs V Jackson (3) –
12 4-PP MURDER MOSS 40 (G,S) S Coltherd 9-12-0 Mr S Coltherd (7) 79
13 -531 POLYNTH 23P (G,S) Mrs L Ward 10-12-0 Mrs L Ward (7) 54
14 0S-5 YORNOANGEL 30P (S) I A Brown 10-12-0 Mr N Tutty –

3-1 Lincathen, 4-1 Makin' Doo, 9-2 Trade Dispute, 5-1 Hiltonstown Lass, 7-1 Dromore Dream, 8-1 Polynth, 10-1 Fiscal Policy, 16-1 others.

**5.20 TOTE PLACEPOT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE** (£2,425: 2m 1f) (13)

1 0015 MUTASARRIF 8 (BF,CD,F,G) J Dodds 6-12-0 S Melrose (7) [top]
2 2F4 FARCEUR DU MESNIL 26 K Morgan 6-11-8 A S Smith 56
3 2344 MONIS 28 (BF,F) B Ellison 8-11-7 L Cooper (7) 90
4 6P64 HELMSLEY FLIER 11 T Easterby 6-11-4 E Callaghan 95
5 2412 ACCYSTAN 17 (F) M Hammond 4-11-4 N Horrocks (5) 77
6 /P/8 JARAAB 28 D Smith 8-11-3 B Harding 85
7 1611 ONEL LAD 178 (CD,F,G) Miss K Milligan 6-11-1 B Grattan (3) 87
8 5403 THE LAMBTON WORM 14 N Bycroft 5-10-13 G F Ryan (3) 85
9 0604 COME AND RUN 75 M W Easterby 5-10-13 C McCormack (3) 49
10 0200 PANDORAS LORD 80 J Wainwright 5-10-12 D Parker 84
11 P100 CAMDEN FELLOW 31 (F) P Eccles 6-10-7 M Scates (7) 82
12 504 KONKER 22 G M Moore 4-10-3 R Guest 76
13 6040 ONE STOP 4 M Barnes 6-10-0 S Taylor 71

3-1 Accystan, 5-1 Onel Lad, 6-1 Mutasarrif, 7-1 Farceur Du Mesnil, 8-1 Helmsley Flier, Jaraab, 10-1 Monis, The Lambton Worm, 16-1 others.

**COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRAINERS: P Eccles, 4 winners from 10 runners, 40.0%; J Dodds, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 52 from 217, 24.0%; J Jefferson, 9 from 38, 23.7%; S Bell, 4 from 17, 23.5%; D Smith, 14 from 68, 20.6%; K Morgan, 5 from 27, 18.5%; N Mason, 6 from 34, 17.6%; G M Moore, 16 from 93, 17.2%; T Easterby, 8 from 50, 16.0%.

JOCKEYS: S Melrose, 3 winners from 14 rides, 21.4%; N Hannity, 3 from 15, 20.0%; R Guest, 12 from 62, 19.4%; M H Naughton, 4 from 21, 19.0%; G Lee, 16 from 86, 18.6%; C McCormack, 12 from 70, 17.1%; J Supple, 12 from 71, 16.9%; E Callaghan, 11 from 70, 15.7%; A S Smith, 11 from 92.

**BLINKERED FIRST TIME:** Cheltenham: 2.00 Treasure Chest. 2.35 Makounji. 5.05 Aboo Hom. Sedgefield: 2.25 Gold Drop. 3.35 Gule Point. Southwell: 4.05 Stone Ridge. 5.15 Onel Star, Selkirk Rose.

## SOUTHWELL

ROB WRIGHT
1.45 King Priam. 2.15 Carrie Pooter. 2.50 Albemine. *3.25 Without Friends*. 4.05 Yes Keemo Sabee. 4.40 State Approval. 5.15 Scurrilous.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

**1.45 COB HANDICAP** (Div I: £3,159: 1m) (10 runners)

1 2043 JIBEREEN 15 (CD,F,G,S) P Howling 7-10-0 S Whitworth 9
2 4-05 RAKIS 59 (F,S) Mrs L Stubbs 9-9-9 J Quinn 7
3 05-1 RON'S PET 13 (G) K Burke 4-9-3 K Fallon 2
4 4635 KING PRIAM 13 (B,G) M Polglase 4-9-3 R Price 6
5 1332 MAGICAL SHOT 15 (D) D Carroll 4-9-2 R FitzPatrick (5) 10
6 1214 HIGH NOON 13 (D) N Littmoden 4-8-13 T G McLaughlin 1
7 654- DIAMOND DECORUM 163 (F) P Evans 3-8-8 J F Egan 4
8 -436 SARATOGA RED 20 (S) E Alston 5-8-6 T Sprake 8
9 6466 PLEASURE TRICK 16 (CD,F,G) Enrico Incisa 8-7-12 Kim Tinkler 5
10 2466 TOM 32 (V,CD) C Fairhurst 4-7-10 I Grantham (7) 3

4-1 High Noon, 9-2 Jibereen, 11-2 Ron's Pet, 6-1 Rakis, Magical Shot, 7-1 King Priam, 10-1 Saratoga Red, 12-1 others

**2.15 DARTMOOR CLASSIFIED STAKES** (£2,316: 7f) (8)

1 1410 ABTAAL 3 (V,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-10 P McCabe 7
2 0/05 MELASUS 13 (D,F) D Arbuthnot 7-9-6 S Whitworth 4
3 304- MY LEGAL EAGLE 80J (D,G) R J Price 5-9-6 P Doe (3) 6
4 0/60 SUPREME MAIMOON 8 (D) M Polglase 5-9-6 T G McLaughlin 5
5 -624 TITTA RUFFO 24 (B,F,G) D Shaw 5-9-6 J Fanning 3
6 050- SMART 377 A Reid 4-9-3 A Daly (3) 1
7 3221 CARRIE POOTER 6 (B,CD,F) T Barron 3-8-4 T Sprake 8
8 21 NANY'S AFFAIR 26 (D) M Prescott 3-8-4 G Duffield 2

6-4 Nany's Affair, 2-1 Carrie Pooter, 9-2 Titta Ruffo, 8-1 Abtaal, 16-1 My Legal Eagle, 25-1 Melasus, Smart, 50-1 Supreme Maimoon.

**2.50 SUFFOLK PUNCH CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES** (£2,141: 1m 6f) (17)

1 0-64 *STORM COMMAND 38 D Arbuthnot 5-9-2* S Whitworth 1
2 13-0 SKYERS A KITE 8 (S) Ron Thompson 4-8-13 J Lowe 13
3 -532 ALBEMINE 27 (S) A Juckes 10-8-12 P Doe (3) 4
4 460- CARROLLS MARC 242 (C,D,F,G) Pat Mitchell 11-8-12 M Fenton 15
5 00/0 SHEEP STEALER 14 R Peacock 11-8-12 C Lowther 6
6 4305 TWO ON THE BRIDGE 6 J Given 5-8-12 J Weaver 14
7 000- URGENT REPLY 154 (F,G,S) C Dwyer 6-8-12 J Goldbed (7) 3
8 0-20 BILLY BOX 32 (D) I Balding 7-8-10 K Fallon 12
9 -244 MONACO GOLD 27 (CD,F,S) D Cosgrove 7-8-10 J Quinn 5
10 0-00 KEEN COMPANION 6 T Naughton 6-8-9 G Duffield 17
11 00-0 MADAM LUCY 8 (V) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-9 P McCabe 10
12 -035 HILLZAH 25 (C,D,F,G,S) R Bastiman 11-8-8 Dean McKeown 9
13 *303/ LIAB 512 (B,CD) J Parkes 9-8-8 D Mernagh (5) 16*
14 4320 SIR WALTER 28 (F) A T Murphy 6-8-6 J Stack 8
15 -004 LAKE ARIA 22 J Eyre 6-8-5 L Charnock 7
16 2186 KATIE'S CRACKER 8 (C,D,S) M Dunn 4-8-3 F Norton 11
17 3000 TIME OUT 8 (C) M Polglase 4-7-13 P Fessey 2

5-1 Monaco Gold, 6-1 Hillzah, 7-1 Two On The Bridge, Billy Box, 8-1 Skyers A Kite, Albemine, Sir Walter, 10-1 others.

**3.25 COB HANDICAP** (Div II: £3,141: 1m) (9)

1 0111 SHARP SCOTCH 36 (CD,S) D Carroll 6-10-0 R FitzPatrick (5) 5
2 0-11 SAGUARO 10 (CD) K Morgan 5-9-12 P Fitzsimons (7) 7
3 0025 BUTRINTO 18 (F) J Pearce 5-9-7 K Fallon 3
4 -001 GENIUS 19 (D) D Chapman 4-9-3 A Culhane 6
5 0610 HEVER GOLF GLORY 8 (D,G) C Kellett 5-9-0 T Williams 4
6 6411 MUTAHADETH 8 (B,CD) D Shaw 5-8-12 (6ex) J Fanning 1
7 020- MARGARET'S DANCER 129 (D,F,G,S) J Eyre 4-8-8 C Lowther 9
8 2631 WITHOUT FRIENDS 8 (V,CD,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-6 (6ex) Dean McKeown 8
9 1000 LAA JADEED 32 (C) M Polglase 4-7-10 P Doe (3) 2

3-1 Sharp Scotch, 4-1 Saguaro, 9-2 Mutahadeth, 6-1 Without Friends, 13-2 Butrinto, 7-1 Hever Golf Glory, 10-1 Genius, 20-1 others.

**4.05 'NEIL AND DIANE 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY' HANDICAP** (£4,046: 1m 4f) (7)

1 5121 GREEN BOPPER 15 (C,G) G Woodward 6-9-12 C Lowther 4
2 061- STONE RIDGE 47J (V,F,G,S) J Pearce 7-9-12 A Polli (3) 1
3 2521 SWIFT 8 (CD,F,G) M Polglase 5-9-11 (6ex) K Fallon 7
4 400- MR FORTYWINKS 134 (BF,C,D,G,S) J Eyre 5-9-5 R Lappin 6
5 3443 NOUKARI 13 (CD) P Evans 6-9-4 J F Egan 5
6 -522 YES KEEMO SABEE 6 (BF) D Shaw 4-8-10 P Fitzsimons (7) 2
7 3-31 COUNT DE MONEY 18 (CD) S Bowring 4-8-9 J Quinn 3

6-4 Green Bopper, 7-2 Yes Keemo Sabee, 4-1 Count De Money, 7-1 Swift, 10-1 Noukari, 12-1 Stone Ridge, 20-1 Mr Fortywinks.

**4.40 ARAB SELLING STAKES** (£1,814: 1m 3f) (6)

1 *1125 MOONRAKING 18 (B,CD) Miss S Wilton 6-10-0* J Savage (7) 4
2 -160 ROFFEY SPINNEY 38 (F,S) J Cullinan 5-10-0 B Smith (7) 1
3 12-1 STATE APPROVAL 6 (CD,F) Miss S Wilton 6-10-0 C Carver (5) 2
4 03-0 DANKA 64 K Comerford 5-9-10 M Fenton 3
5 00-0 GOLDSTAR 24 P Eccles 4-9-9 S Whitworth 5
6 00-0 WINNOWER 35 Mrs L Stubbs 3-7-12 A Daly (3) 6

4-6 State Approval, 7-4 Moonraking, 10-1 Roffey Spinney, 33-1 Danka, Winnower, 50-1 Goldstar.

**5.15 THOROUGHBRED HANDICAP** (£2,684: 5f) (16)

1 260- DEMOLITION JO 120 (V,F,G,S) P Evans 4-9-12 J F Egan 15
2 050- BLUE KITE 94 (BF,D) N Littmoden 4-9-9 K Fallon 3
3 -244 SAMWAR 6 (V,BF,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-9-9 P McCabe 8
4 0-10 BOLD FRONTIER 41 (V,CD,F) K Ivory 7-9-8 Martin Dwyer 13
5 -320 AA-YOUKNOWNOTHING 6 (D,S) Miss J Craze 3-9-5 S Webster 16
6 1522 NIFTY NORMAN 8 (C,D,G,S) D Nicholls 5-9-4 Alex Greaves 11
7 2540 POLAR MIST 20 (V) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-13 Dean McKeown 5
8 0401 CAMEO 10 (V,D) M Channon 4-8-9 P Cleary (7) 12
9 4130 TINKER'S SURPRISE 6 (B,D,F) J Balding 5-8-8 J Edmunds 4
10 030- ONEL STAR 130 (V,D,S) P Evans 3-8-7 C Cogan (7) 14
11 4000 SELKIRK ROSE 10 (V,D,G) J Given 4-8-7 A Culhane 6
12 61-0 HILTONS EXECUTIVE 71 (C,D,F) E Alston 5-8-6 L Charnock 7
13 3563 SCURRILOUS 12 J L Harris 4-8-0 R Mullen (3) 10
14 -661 BOWCLIFFE GRANGE 14 (D,F,G) D Chapman 7-7-13 J Quinn 9
15 2-00 GOING PLACES 52 (B,D,S) K Ivory 4-7-12 C Catlin (7) 1
16 0432 KALAR 15 (B,CD,F,G) D Chapman 10-7-10 P Fessey 2

4-1 Nifty Norman, 6-1 Bold Frontier, 8-1 Aa-Youknownothing, Bowcliffe Grange, *10-1 Tinker's Surprise*, Scurrilous, 12-1 Blue Kite, Cameo, Hiltons Executive, Kalar, 14-1 others.

**COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRAINERS: Sir M Prescott, 26 winners from 85 runners, 30.6%; Miss S Wilton, 12 from 42, 28.6%; T Barron, 26 from 149, 17.4%; D Carroll, 4 from 23, 17.4%; G Woodward, 5 from 34, 14.7%; M Channon, 7 from 51, 13.7%.

JOCKEYS: C Carver, 8 winners from 18 rides, 44.4%; R FitzPatrick, 8 from 30, 26.7%; K Fallon, 20 from 96, 20.8%; J Weaver, 37 from 231, 16.0%; P McCabe, 21 from 144, 14.6%; G Duffield, 32 from 230, 13.9%.

# Cardinal Hill to answer prayers



IRISH VIEW

ISTABRAQ, an Irish banker at the past two Festivals, faces little more than a lap of honour to retain the Smurfit Champion Hurdle and his short odds disqualify him from serving the same role this time. Today, that dubious honour falls to Cardinal Hill in the Citroën Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

Like Joe Mac, he is owned by J. P. McManus, but it is Cardinal Hill who has been subject of much more positive reports in recent days. He did an exceptional gallop last week and Noel Meade is optimistic that he can overcome his inexperience to give him a popular first Festival success.

Colonel Yeager is a solid each-way alternative.

A McManus gamble must be possible on Shannon Gale, who reappeared at Christmas after two years on the sidelines, to win the Leopardstown qualifier for the Stakis Casinos Final. Being 8lb out of the handicap may have a bigger effect on his price than his chance, as he could have improved for Christy Roche.

Time For A Run, a Festival veteran, ran a promising trial for the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup at Leopardstown nine days ago and makes each-way appeal, while His Song has obvious prospects in the Guinness Arkle Trophy Chase.

**RICHARD EVANS**

Nap: BOSUNS MATE (5.05 Cheltenham)

## RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

### Taunton

**Going:** good, good to soft in places

**2.10** (2m 110yd ch) 1, **South West Express** (J Mogford, 11-4); 2, Connaught Cracker (8-11 fav); 3, Jason's Boy (4-1). 5 ran. NR: Northern Saddler. 2l, 1½l. D Wintle. Tote: £3.20; £1.70, £1.20. DF: £2.30. CSF: £5.10.

**2.40** (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Mr Snaggle** (J A McCarthy, 7-2); 2, Northern Drums (9-4 fav); 3, Mershginer (10-1). 6 ran. 1½l, 22l. Simon Earle. Tote: £4.90; £2.80, £1.60. DF: £6.50. CSF: £11.20.

**3.10** (2m 3f) 1, **Laredo** (J Tizzard, 5-4); 2, Echo's of Dawn (12-1). 4 ran. Dist. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.10. DF: £6.20. CSF: £10.55.

**3.40** (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, **Batswing** (D Salter, 10-1); 2, Twinnings Grove (20-1); 3, Cage Aux Folles (4-1). Raid (4th) 6-4 fav. 10 ran. 15l, 13l. B Millman. Tote: £13.60; £2.80, £2.90, £1.70. DF: £144.70. CSF: £159.75.

**4.10** (2m 1f hdle) 1, **True Vision** (A P McCoy, 4-9 fav); 2, Allegiance (25-1); 3, Muhassil (10-1). 8 ran. 7l, 5l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £2.40, £1.10. DF: £5.70. CSF: £15.68.

**4.40** (3m ch) 1, **Muntafi** (Mr C R Weaver, 10-1); 2, Just Ben (7-2); 3, Hillhead (12-1). Certain Angle (5th) 11-8 fav. 8 ran. 4l, 3l. Simon T Lewis. Tote: £9.40; £2.50, £1.10, £4.80. DF: £20.60. CSF: £41.06.

**5.10** (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Laffah** (A P McCoy, 4-1); 2, Jalb (9-4 fav); 3, Mr Leros (9-1). 9 ran. 4l, 10l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.60; £3.10, £1.10, £1.80. DF: £8.30. Tote Trifecta: £159.70. CSF: £12.33. Tricast: £67.31.

**Jackpot: £7,100.00 — part won (carry-over of £7,465.63 to Cheltenham today). Placepot: £88.90. Quadpot: £24.70.**

### Plumpton

**Going:** soft

**2.00** (2m 4f hdle) 1, **Johnston's Art** (B Powell, evens fav); 2, Gullible Guy (6-1); 3, Pirate Minstrel (50-1). 7 ran. NR: Peasedown Tolana. 14l, 13l. R Buckler. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £2.70. DF: £4.80. CSF: £6.20.

**2.30** (2m 5f ch) 1, **Kingdom of Shades** (R Dunwoody, 4-9 fav); 2, Kelly Mac (9-4); 3, Deep Refrain (16-1). 4 ran. 27l, dist. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.30. CSF: £1.67.

**3.00** (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Whirlawhile** (S Kelly, 2-15 fav); 2, In Good Order (25-1); 3, Castle Hill (33-1). 5 ran. 13l, 22l. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £1.10; £1.10, £2.90. DF: £2.20. CSF: £4.49.

**3.30** (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Suranom** (J F Titley, 7-4 fav, **Richard Evans's nap**); 2, Tissue of Lies (2-1); 3, Illuminate (9-2). 7 ran. 2½l, 22l. *Mrs D Haine. Tote: £2.70; £1.30, £1.50.* DF: £3.50. CSF: £5.37.

**4.00** (2m 5f ch) 1, **Full of Bounce** (P Holley, 12-1); 2, No Matter (11-4); 3, *Scobie Girl* (5-2). Regal Aura (4th) 5-4 fav. 4 ran. NR: Scavo. 12l, ½l. R Hodges. Tote: £13.30. DF: £11.40. CSF: £37.01.

**4.30** (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, **Westerlands Queen** (Mr A Charles-Jones, evens fav); 2, My Best Man (5-4); 3, Pinocchio (14-1). 5 ran. 13l, dist. H Manners. Tote: £2.10; £2.10, £1.10. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.47.

**5.00** (2m 4f hdle) 1, ***Blaze of Oak*** (*Miss V* Roberts, 4-5 fav); 2, August Twelfth (100-30); 3, Fighting Times (12-1). 5 ran. 2½l, 22l. P Eccles. Tote: £1.90; £1.60, £1.30. DF: £2.10. CSF: £3.86.

**Placepot: £94.90. Quadpot: £33.50.**

### Stratford

**Going:** heavy

**1.50** (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, **Yer 'umble** (R *Farrant*, 50-1); 2, Lettylak (9-1); 3, Ballynabragget (7-1). Caldamus (4th) 4-6 fav. 9 ran. ½l, 4l. J Cresswell. Tote: £58.40; £8.80, £2.30, £1.10. DF: £275.40. CSF: £371.98.

**2.20** (2m 4f ch) 1, **Jocks Cross** (N Williamson, 1-12 fav); 2, Anns Display (12-1); 3, Cherry Orchid (25-1). 3 ran. ¾l, 20l. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £1.10. DF: £1.30. CSF: £1.46.

**2.50** (2m 3f hdle) 1, **Stanford Hill** (R Johnson, 4-1); 2, Rusk (7-4 fav); 3, Balmoral Princess (10-1). 9 ran. [illegible] M Pipe. Tote: £4.50; £1.70, £1.60, £2.00. DF: £5.20. CSF: [illegible]

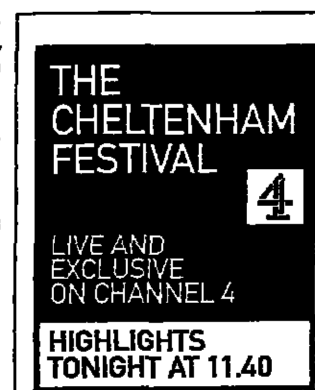
**3.20** (3m ch) 1, **Roundwood** (G Cotter, 5-6 fav); 2, Moncasman (9-4); 3, Indian Trader (16-1). 4 ran. [illegible] dist. D Hughes. Tote: £2.00. DF: £2.30. CSF: £3.91.

**3.50** (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Wesley's Lad** (D J Burchell, 7-4); 2, The Brewmaster (7-2); 3, Menglano (11-10 fav). 3 ran. [illegible] D Burchell. Tote: £2.10. DF: £2.90. CSF: £5.53.

**4.20** (3m ch) 1, **Tombola** (Mr B Pollock, 1-2 fav); 2, Tomcappagh (8-1); 3, Ridwan (50-1). 14 ran. NR: Mr Pinball. 10l, dist. Mrs *Caroline Bailey. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £2.70,* £11.10. DF: £4.60. CSF: £4.91.

**4.50** (2m 110yd flat) 1, **Llolyan** (R Walsh, 10-11 fav); 2, Tom Cobbler (11-2); 3, Royal Yankee (7-1). 8 ran. 6l, 3½l. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £1.40, £2.00. DF: £4.10. CSF: £5.49.

**Placepot: £117.20. Quadpot: £17.40.**






**FOOTBALL:** FERGUSON'S COMMENTS RAISE THE TEMPERATURE BEFORE SECOND LEG OF EUROPEAN CUP QUARTER-FINAL

# Stadium of fright will test mettle of United

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN MILAN

THERE is a sense of peacefulness and elegance about the 16th-century palace that houses the offices of Internazionale in the city centre here that suggests not much disturbs the equilibrium of those who work within.

Classical frescoes adorn the walls and the high ceilings. The sound of visitors climbing the broad stone staircases to the trophy room echo around the Palazzo Caproni and mix with laughter and the chatter of friendly greetings.

Yesterday, though, an air of patrician surprise that verged on indignation was floating around the building, too, as news of Alex Ferguson's renewed attack on Inter and their propensity for scheming, conniving, plotting and generally being Italian began to reach them.

Ferguson's thinly disguised xenophobia is nothing new before games such as this. His comments about the underhand tactics he thinks Inter are likely to employ before the European Cup quarter-final, second leg tomorrow night represent a tried and tested way of putting pressure on the referee. In this case, the official is a Frenchman, Gilles Veissier, who sent off Steve McManaman and Paul Ince in Liverpool's Uefa Cup tie against Valencia earlier this season. He also refereed Manchester United's defeat at the hands of Juventus in the Stadio delle Alpi last season, so the omens for a night when the San Siro will be full to bursting, its fans at their most passionate, are not encouraging.

Despite the disquiet of Inter and their players, the issue of whether the desperation of the Italians to overturn United's 2-0 lead will manifest itself in excessive gamesmanship is, together with the projected return of Ronaldo, beginning to dominate the run-up to the game.

At the Inter training ground, their players affected surprise, too, at Ferguson's comments. Aron Winter, the Holland international, poured scorn on the United manager's observations. "He's just looking for an alibi," Winter said. "We play our own game. We are not interested in those things he is talking about. We have got a very good team and now that Ronaldo is fit and playing that is going to be another weapon for us.

"This is the one game that can rescue our season. The atmosphere is going to be crazy because we will be playing in front of 85,000 people and 75,000 of them will be for Inter. You can imagine what it will be like. It is one of our strengths that we are used to playing in front of that many. Old Trafford had a good atmosphere, but there are going to be 30,000 more at the San Siro."

The stadium, where the fans set up their own megaphones on the Curva Nord and the Curva Sud to magnify their screams and exhortations, will be like an inferno tomorrow night. There will be smoke bombs, flares and firecrackers hurled onto the pitch and it is essential for United not to allow themselves to become intimidated by the atmosphere.

In the past, perhaps, lack of discipline might have let them down but now that many of their young players have matured, they are less vulnerable. David Elleray, who refereed United's game against Newcastle United on Saturday, is confident that they will not allow themselves to become deflected from their task.

"United will need to be aware that there will be a certain amount going on off the ball," Elleray said. "There will be quite a lot of blocking of runs, body-checking and shirt-tugging, which will not necessarily be seen by the referee because it will almost certainly be out of his line of vision.

"It will be like a game of physical chess and the Italians will try to get United's players booked, either to dull their game or as a first step to getting them sent off.

"You just need one or two Italians to start rolling around in agony, to see if the referee takes any action, and that could wind United up. English players tend to get stroppy about that kind of exaggeration. But people like Keane, Butt and Scholes are much more mature now. Beckham, because of that Argentina game, now knows the problems that retaliation brings. In terms of composure, United are probably better equipped than they were last season."

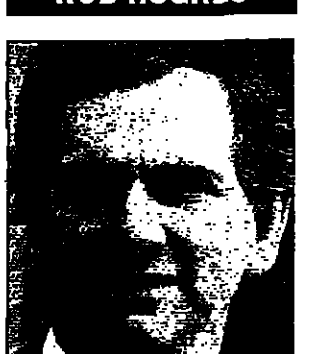
That assessment should cheer Ferguson, to say nothing of the fact that Ronaldo, suffering from a migraine, could not train yesterday. The schemers have got some catching up to do.



Recoba proves deadly from a free kick for Venezia against Fiorentina. Internazionale could do with his striking prowess against Manchester United

# Inter missing loan dividend

ROB HUGHES



Overseas View

What strange and transitory creatures football goalscorers are. They move and sometimes fail to settle with the fluctuation of butterflies and, in the global world where goals are the *lingua franca*, two of them are on the outside looking in as clubs prepare for another decisive midweek in Europe and elsewhere.

Manchester United will not have to face the most potent and in-form striker that Internazionale possess, for Alvaro Recoba is surplus to requirements. He rates behind a half-fit Ronaldo, an often tenuously fit Roberto Baggio, the fledgeling Nicola Ventola and the experienced Ivan Zamorano.

Recoba, the young, swarthy, delightful Uruguayan, has been loaned to Venezia, for whom he scored a devastating hat-trick against the aspiring Serie A champions, Fiorentina, on Sunday.

The left foot of Recoba is, at its best, every bit the magician's tool that is the right foot of Baggio. He demonstrated it with a free kick from 22 yards. He took no more than two paces, his foot seemed deceptively to caress the ball, but it flew with astonishing ferocity into the far, high corner of the net.

The same foot was to deceive Fiorentina's goalkeeper again in the second half and then the diminutive Recoba concluded his special day late in the game by anticipating a defender's error, hustling him with a matador's swerve, then eluding the goalkeeper and tapping the ball over the line with the right foot that he normally requires only to stabilise his balance.

It was, in all, another unpredictable weekend in Italy. Juventus, who face a tricky second leg in Piraeus against Olympiakos tomorrow, achieved a late winning goal against Udinese to confirm their tentative recovery under Carlo Ancelotti, who has replaced Marcello Lippi as trainer.

And age is no barrier, either, because Pietro Vierchowod, once a stalwart of the Juventus defence, stepped up to head a goal in Vicenza's 3-0 victory over Perugia ... and the former Italy international is in his fortieth year. In the same match, Lamberto Zauli, a winger, rose three feet into the air to score with a volley, one of those goals that make us realise that beauty lurks in the most unexpected areas of this astonishing game.

As far as Europe is concerned, Bayern Munich, with yet another 2-0 victory, away to SV Hamburg, are strolling in the Bundesliga and are favourites to defeat Kaiserslautern in the quarter-finals.

If Munich and Juventus and, though nothing should be taken for granted, Manchester United fulfil expectations, who would be the fourth semi-finalist in the European Cup? John Toshack, finding his feet in charge of Real Madrid and grateful for their 3-1 victory away to Racing Santander on Saturday, believes that Dynamo Kiev are a better team away from home.

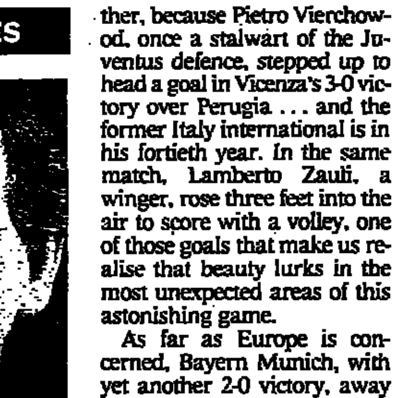
It is a belief tinged, perhaps, with wishful thinking. For after Kiev had mastered Real at the Santiago Bernabeu in the first leg, the Kiev team, having wintered much more thoroughly than a year ago, looked capable not only of eliminating the champions of the Continent but of going all the way.

Andrei Shevchenko should be buoyed by his fine and customary goal in the 1-1 draw in Madrid, yet if there are 100,000 people in the stadium in Kiev, none will take tomorrow for granted. They were in this position 12 months ago but, having held Juventus also 1-1 in Turin, they fell apart to the skills of Filippo Inzaghi, who scored three of Juventus's startling four away goals.

That is the value, the surprise, the sting of the goalscorer. How many recall Paul Rideout, then a schoolboy apprentice with Swindon Town, scoring a memorable hat-trick at Wembley when England Under-15 defeated Scotland 5-0?

Rideout hit the net with one extraordinary burst from the halfway line, lashing his shot from 35 yards. But the boy has meandered through manhood. He played for Aston Villa, for Bari in Serie A, and he played on other continents, too. Most recently he was released by Kansas City Wizards in American Major League Soccer, where he shared the attack with the fleeting Scotland forward, Mo Johnston. Rideout has now joined Chongquing, in China.

A strange world, indeed, for those who can go anywhere and put the ball into that confined space between the posts.



Rideout: moving to China

# Barnsley lacking confidence for Cup encounter

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

NO DISRESPECT to Barnsley. Those four words, repeated like a mantra — a patronising, grudging acknowledgement — have come to symbolise and shape a football club.

They imply a certain over-achievement, a sense of living above their station. They have been mouthed quite a lot over the past three seasons and usually followed by a significant "but..." It has been no different in the build-up to the rescheduled FA Cup quarter-final tie with Tottenham Hotspur tonight.

No disrespect to Barnsley, but Tottenham are clear favourites.

They have grown immune to it at Oakwell. Two years ago Mark McGhee, then manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, questioned their stamina and ambition. At the time it had seemed an unnecessary broadside, fuelled perhaps by Barnsley's ascension to the FA Carling Premiership ahead of richer, brasher Wolves, but the sentiment stuck.

It lasted throughout the ten-month jaunt that followed, as Barnsley sustained some heavy bludgeoning but beat Liverpool and Aston Villa — all of it to the eternal backdrop of "It's just like watching Brazil." This season, without a league win in 1999 and down to seventeenth in the Nationwide League first division, it has been far more like watching Barnsley.

A combination of relegation and Danny Wilson's defection to Sheffield Wednesday have served to reverse the momentum gradually generated over the previous four years.

John Hendrie, the new manager, was a popular and amicable appointment, but confidence is low and the mood is decidedly tetchy. In the last round of the Cup, a 4-1 victory



over Bristol Rovers was soured when Hendrie became embroiled in a heated confrontation with Clint Marcelle, the Trinidad and Tobago forward. It was not an argument over Barnsley's tactical pattern, but disagreement triggered by Marcelle's clothing, and resolved by the chairman.

Ashley Ward, who had scored 15 goals, was sold to Blackburn Rovers late last year, and, though Craig Hignett, Hendrie's former Middlesbrough team-mate, has been playing well since signing from Aberdeen for £800,000, another new arrival, Bruce Dyer, has struggled. "I have faith in my ability and I always go into a game thinking I'm going to score," Dyer, who left Crystal Palace in a £750,000 transfer, said. "I know I will come good."

Barnsley have failed to score in eight of their past ten league games. Their game-plan against Tottenham will not deviate far from their normal blueprint. They will pass the football, hope to take the London fancy Dans unawares and pray that their opponents' looming visit to Wembley in the Worthington Cup will go some way to preventing another. "I would have thought it would be in the back of their minds," Dyer said.

Hendrie can point to defeats of Bolton Wanderers, Manchester United and, indeed, Spurs, as they reached a similar stage of the competition last season. He will say that, whatever their Cup form, George Graham's team have not won an away league game since October. He will point, for the first time in recent weeks, to the strength of his squad. Neither side is troubled by injury. Graham said yesterday:

"If we get through, we've a hard game against Newcastle." No disrespect to Barnsley.

BARNSLEY (possible, 4-4-2): T Bullock — N Eaden, A Moses, C Morgan, A De Zeeuw — E Tinkler, S McClare, S Jones, G Blackmore — C Hignett, B Dyer.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (possible, 4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, R Vega, S Campbell, J Edinburgh — D Anderton, S Freund, T Sherwood, D Ginola — L Ferdinand, C Armstrong.



Graham: hard game



## FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

THE Football Association is expected to stage the Graeme Le Saux-Robbie Fowler misconduct hearing after England's European championship match with Poland, which takes place at Wembley on March 27.

That means the two players — if they are chosen for international duty, as expected — must spend next week together with the issue still hanging over them.

The FA cannot stage the hearing, which concerns the pair's altercation during the game between Chelsea and Liverpool on February 27, this week because Fowler is in a training camp in France and Le Saux will not return from Chelsea's game with Valerenga in Norway until Friday.

The England players meet up at Bisham Abbey on Sunday and an FA hearing would clash with preparations for the Poland game. A spokesman for the FA said yesterday: "It's a possibility that the hearing will be held over."

☐ Blackburn Rovers yesterday denied that they had received any offers for Kevin Davies, their striker. Sheffield Wednesday were believed to have bid £4 million for Davies, who has not settled at Ewood Park since a £7.5 million transfer from Southampton last summer.

☐ Walter Smith, the manager of Everton, has dismissed reports linking Michael Ball, their England Under-21 defender, with a move to Liverpool. "There is no truth in these rumours and we can do without them," Smith said.

# O'Neill rewards Robson patience

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

BRYAN ROBSON'S season-long search for a wide midfield player reached a successful, if belated, conclusion last night when Middlesbrough agreed an undisclosed fee with Norwich City for Keith O'Neill, their highly regarded Ireland international.

O'Neill, 23, is expected to sign a four-year contract today, accepting terms of £8,000 a week and therefore banishing fears that he would leave Carrow Road on a free transfer this summer. Norwich, who rejected a £4 million bid for the Dublin-born winger last season, can expect to receive only a quarter of that sum from Middlesbrough.

Robson and his assistant, Viv Anderson, watched O'Neill against Bradford City on Saturday and, in part, it is the versatility of a player who can also operate as a central striker that appeals. Although Middlesbrough beat Southampton 3-0 two days ago, they have struggled in the creation and converting of goals. A winger, however, has long been a priority.

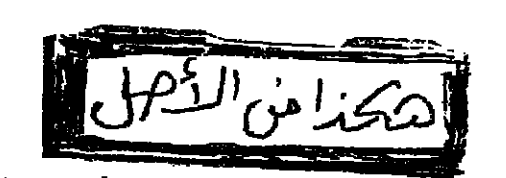
Deals to take Keith Gillespie, Steve Stone, Steve Froggatt and Francesco Moriero to the Riverside Stadium have all broken down at various stages of advancement and, in the absence of new personnel, much onus has been placed on the wing back, Dean Gordon.

Like Gordon, formerly of Crystal Palace, O'Neill, who has been plagued by knee and foot injuries recently, is naturally left-footed, but his arrival will give Robson another attacking option. Middlesbrough have won just match in 1999 and cannot count themselves completely clear of the relegation fray.

The Sunderland manager, Peter Reid, has ridiculed suggestions that Michael Bridges, the England Under-21 striker, could be on the verge of a transfer to Newcastle United. "Michael has got a year left on his contract and we've offered him a new deal. That tells you my feelings on the subject," Reid said.

Bury, of the Nationwide League first division, yesterday signed Paul Barnes, a striker, from Huddersfield Town. The fee involved is around £40,000 and Barnes, 31, has signed a two-year contract at Gigg Lane. He will be available for Bury's match against Wolverhampton Wanderers tonight.

O'Neill: four-year deal





**TENNIS:** NEW WORLD NO 1 DISPELS DOUBTS BY DISPLAYING VERSATILITY TO BECOME MASTER OF ANY SURFACE

# Moya crowned as king of all courts

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

CARLOS MOYA may have lost the battle, but he has certainly won the war. Mark Philippoussis proved to be the better man in Indian Wells on Sunday in the final of the Newsweek Champions Cup, but as of yesterday Moyà is the better man overall. His performances over the course of last week pushed him ahead of Pete Sampras in the world rankings. The margin is small, a meagre 37 points, but it is enough to crown Moyà king of the hill as the tour moves on from California to Florida and the start of the Lipton championships on Thursday.

It also proves that there is rather more to Spanish tennis than clay-court sluggers. Sure enough, Moyà is the French Open champion, a title he won by beating Alex Corretja, his nearest rival in Spain, but the system that finds and moulds young talent into champions has its eyes fixed on a worldwide goal. At the training centre in Barcelona, the hard courts sit alongside the clay and, as the young guns grow in confidence, so they believe they can win titles on almost any surface.

"I always considered myself a good hard-court player," Moyà, 22, said, a little miffed that someone should think his week's work here was a fluke. "I reached the final in Australia, the semi-finals of the US Open, I won a title on hard courts and I have beaten most of the top players on hard courts. It's obvious that my best results have been on clay, but I didn't feel uncomfortable here." He also does not feel uncomfortable with his No 1 ranking.

Most people would have forgiven him for throwing in the towel against Philippoussis. By beating Gustavo Kuerten in the semi-finals, he knew he had done enough to reach his greatest goal, so to pick himself up for one more match was something of an achievement. To battle for nearly three hours was remarkable, but then Moyà has been looking forward to this part of his career for some time.

"I would love to have more pressure every time," he said. "I think that I handle it very well. I have proved that I can win a grand-slam tournament, but I have also proved that I can win matches after that grand-slam. You have all the attention from everyone — and I can deal with that pressure."

Moyà is one of the tour's nice guys. He is a charming chap and appears so laid-back as to be almost horizontal. But in the background his support crew of Jose Perlas, his coach, and Luis Miguel Morales, his fitness trainer, have the master plan.

"Everyone knows that I am not a hard worker," Moyà said, "so they are always finding new ways for me to make it easy. They make it more fun for me. We are a real team and this is very important for me. More than my coach, they are my friends, they know my secrets."

They also know how to keep Moyà's spirits up. At the end of last year he led Corretja by two sets to love in the final of the ATP world championships — and then lost. "It was the most disappointing day of my life," he said.

Things did not get much better as the new season started, losing in the first round in Melbourne. "When you are playing that bad you think there is no way out, you cannot even put the ball in play," he said. "But I kept trying. I always had belief in myself and they always trust me a lot. They show me there is a way out. I start to play better in Dubai, I went on holiday and then had some good practice in Barcelona. I came to California and started to play better and better."

How long he can keep this up and hold on to his new ranking is a matter of some debate. Sampras is so close behind him that he is almost standing on his heels, but Sampras is going through a ropy patch. His long winter break may have recharged his batteries, but it has done little for his volleys.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov is but a pace behind Sampras and, armed with his new coach, Larry Stefanki, a man used to difficult souls, having worked with John McEnroe and Marcelo Rios, the Russian is finally turning into the player that he promised to be three years ago. But Moyà does not seem to mind; he is, after all, the world No 1.

"This what everyone is looking for," he said. "I've done it. Maybe tomorrow another does it — it works that way. One time you are up, one time you are down. This is my time to be up."

Greg Rusedski dropped out of the top ten in the world in the updated rankings issued yesterday. Rusedski, who has had a generally disappointing 1999, fell three places to thirteenth after his defeat in Indian Wells last week by Tim Henman, who has risen by one place to sixth.



Although he has had most of his success on clay, Moyà has developed into an outstanding all-court player. Photograph: Kevork Djansezian



Sampras: poor form

**TOP RANKING**

| Period | Player |
|---|---|
| Oct 1992 — April 1993 | J Courier |
| April 1993 — Aug 1993 | P Sampras |
| Aug 1993 — Sept 1993 | Courier |
| Sept 1993 — April 1995 | Sampras |
| April 1995 — Nov 1995 | A Agassi |
| Nov 1995 — Jan 1996 | Sampras |
| Jan 1996 — Feb 1996 | Agassi |
| Feb 1996 — Feb 1996 | T Muster |
| Feb 1996 — March 1996 | Sampras |
| March 1996 — April 1996 | Muster |
| April 1996 — March 1998 | Sampras |
| March 1998 — Aug 1998 | M Rios |
| Aug 1998 — March 1999 | Sampras |
| March 1999 | C Moyà |



Courier: former No 1

## SPORT IN BRIEF

## Briers is cleared of gouging charge

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Lee Briers, the Warrington scrum half, was yesterday exonerated over allegations of gouging. It followed a claim by Stuart Spruce, the Bradford Bulls full back,who claimed that he was gouged during his side's 52-16 Challenge Cup quarter-final win on Sunday.
The Rugby Football League executive ruled that Briers "had no case to answer" after they examined the incident on video. Briers's team-mate, Danny Farrar, the Warrington hooker and captain, was also told he would not be facing any action after being placed on report by the referee, John Connolly, for a possible high tackle in the same match.

■ **RUGBY UNION:** Australia is set to break the world attendance record of 95,000 with ticket sales for the Bledisloe Cup match with New Zealand on August 28. John O'Neill, the Australian Rugby Union managing director, said yesterday that crowd figures, at present approaching six figurees, could even beat the 104,000 rugby league world-record attendance that was set at the opening fixtures of the Australian Rugby League championship at the Olympic stadium last week. "Ticket sales have outstripped single-day sales for the rugby league double-header," he said.

■ **GOLF:** Patrik Sjoland,of Sweden, who feared he had just missed out on a Masters debut next month, has been added to the starting line-up at Augusta. Sjoland, 27, thought he might have to reach the world's top 50 to receive an invitation. He dropped to 53rd last week but has finally been rewarded for finishing fifth on the European order of merit last season. Miguel Angel Jiménez, of Spain, who retained his Turespaña Masters title on Sunday, has also been called up for the first major of the year.

■ **MOTOR RACING:** Michael Schumacher twisted an ankle while jogging and will miss private testing today and tomorrow in Barcelona, a spokesman for the double world champion said yesterday. Heiner Buchinger said the injury was not serious and would not prevent Schumacher from taking part in the next race, the Brazilian Grand Prix, on April 11 in São Paulo.

■ **TABLE TENNIS:** England should know next week whether the world championships in Belgrade next month will be called off because of the political situation in the Balkans.The United States have already pulled out of the 14-day tournament, which begins on April 26.

**BOWLS**

# Hiom rides good fortune

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

CHRIS HIOM, from Boston, won the British women's indoor singles title at Belfast yesterday when she beat the Welsh champion, Aeres Davies, from Machynlleth's Bro Ddyfi club, 21-19 in an exciting final. Scotland, however, won all three team events, beating Irish opponents in the finals of the pairs, triples and fours, but only after making great escapes in the triples and fours.

Jane Brooksby, May Townsley and Liz Wren, from Falkirk, trailed Joyce Mulholland's Ballymoney trio 2-12 after nine ends and were still 16-12 adrift with two ends to play. Scoring two trebles, Falkirk won 18-16.

Their achievement paled into insignificance, however, compared with that of an Auchinleck quartet skipped by Josephine Williamson, who went into the last end needing five shots to beat County Antrim and collected a nap hand to win 20-19.

Sandra McLeish and Agnes Melrose, of Midlothian, had a relatively straightforward 17-12 victory over Kathleen Megrath and Eileen Bell, of Belfast, in the pairs final.

Bell has played for Ireland since 1966, but has never won a British title, and was naturally hoping to put right the omission, but the Midlothian pair, who trailed 8-9 after 13 ends, took control over the last third, scoring nine shots to three over the last eight ends.

Hiom had to play only one game to win the singles title, because Margaret Letham, the Scottish champion, who was to be her opponent in the semi-finals, was on her way to South Africa, where she is due to play in the Atlantic Rim Games. No substitution is allowed in the singles, and the British officials are furious that their event has been devalued by the scheduling of an international outdoor event during the indoor season.

Although Hiom had not played a real game on the green before the final, she scored a treble on the eleventh end and a full house of four shots on the thirteenth to lead 14-9, but promptly dropped six shots over the next three ends.

Scolding herself, and gesturing at every bowl, she talked her way back into the game, until Davies went through a narrow gap between her match-winning shot and the jack on the 24th end.

**GOLF:** AMERICAN'S FIRST BIG WIN FOR SEVEN YEARS EDGES HER NEARER LANDMARK

# Fame supplies spur for Inkster

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

JULI INKSTER, a personable Californian, moved a point closer to the Hall of Fame with victory in the Welch's/Circle K championship at Randolph North in Tucson, Arizona, on Sunday. It was the eighteenth win of her 16-year career and she now has 21 points, just six short of the total required under the new criteria introduced earlier this year.

Inkster, who had not won a full-field event since 1992, had an eagle three at the 13th, a 470-yard par-five ranked the easiest hole on the course, to vault into a lead she that never lost. She hit a seven-wood 215 yards to eight feet and the club she had once shunned also set up a birdie four at the 16th and a final round of 65, seven under par.

"I'm a traditionalist, I used to think it was a cheater's club," she said, "but I cheated all the way to the bank." She won $93,750 (£56,756) with her total of 273, 15 under par, one shot ahead of her Solheim Cup colleague, Dottie Pepper, and two ahead of Catriona Matthew, of Scotland.



Inkster: traditionalist

Matthew, who hit 17 greens, was always in contention and a birdie four at the last secured third place on her own, and a cheque for $42,458. She is now fourteenth on the money-list with $89,315.

Inkster, who won the US Women's Amateur title three years in a row when Tiger Woods was just starting to swing a club, has won three major titles as a professional but, until the changes, a place in the Hall of Fame — there were only 14 members, so tough were the conditions — seemed to be out of her reach. Now she is just a point behind Laura Davies and it is more than a possibility.

"It's not the world to me," Inkster, an ultra-competitive player, admitted. "I've had a great career. I have two great kids and a great husband. But times have changed. There's the foreign invasion, a lot of the girls are having kids — it's a changing tour and we needed to change the Hall of Fame."

Beth Daniel and Amy Alcott have now qualified deservedly and the amazing Annika Sorenstam needs a mere three points. If the Swede were to win the Standard Register Ping this week and the Nabisco Dinah Shore, a major championship worth two points, next week, she would be in — bar a four-year wait. She is only in her sixth season on the Ladies' Professional Golf Association Tour and the rules say she has to have been around for ten years.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

**FOOTBALL**

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket

**Uefa Cup**
**Quarter-finals, second leg**
AS Roma (1) v Atletico Madrid (2)
Celta Vigo (1) v Marseilles (2) (8.45)
Lyons (0) v Bologna (3)
Parma (1) v Bordeaux (2) (5.30)

**FA Cup**
**Sixth round**
Barnsley v Tottenham (7.45)

**Nationwide League**
**First division**
Bury v Wolverhampton (7.45)
Crewe v Grimsby (7.45)

**Second division**
Blackpool v Bournemouth
Manchester City v Notts County (7.45)
Stoke v Fulham (7.45)

**Third division**
Brentford v Halifax (7.45)
Rotherham v Cardiff (7.45)

**Auto Windscreens Shield**
**Northern section final**
**First leg**
Wigan v Wrexham (7.45)
**Southern section final**
**Second leg**
* Walsall (1) v Millwall (1) (7.45)

**Nationwide Conference**
Cheltenham v Farnborough (7.45)
Leek v Southport (7.45)
Northwich v Doncaster (7.45)
Rushden and Diamonds v Dover (7.45)
Welling v Stevenage (7.45)
Woking v Kettering (7.45)

**Tennents Scottish Cup**
**Fifth-round replay**
Dundee Utd v Ayr (7.45)

**Scottish League**
**Third division**
Albion v Montrose
Dumbarton v Cowdenbeath

**DR MARTENS LEAGUE:** Premier division: [illegible]. **Southern division:** [illegible]. **Midland division:** [illegible].

**UNIBOND LEAGUE:** Premier division: [illegible]. **First division:** [illegible]. **President's Cup, Semi-final, first leg:** [illegible]. **Challenge Cup: Fourth round:** [illegible].

**RYMAN LEAGUE:** Premier division: [illegible] Bishop's Stortford v Heybridge (at St Alban's City, 7.45); Dulwich v Billericay; Hampton v Enfield; Hendon v Sutton United. **First division:** Barton Rovers v Staines; Bognor Regis v Berkhamsted; Grays v Hitchin; Leatherhead v Whyteleafe; Maidenhead v Leyton Pennant. **Second division:** Banstead v Wivenhoe; Barking v Windsor and Eton; Edgware v Tooting and Mitcham; Hemel Hempstead v Bedford Town; Hertford v Northwood; Met Police v Marlow; Witham v Harlow; Wokingham v Leighton Town. **Third division:** Corinthian-Casuals v Dorking; East Thurrock v Hornchurch; Egham v Lewes; Flackwell Heath v Epsom and Ewell; Kingsbury v Tilbury; Ware v Southall.

**THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP:** Fifth round: Queens Park Rangers v Nottingham Forest; York v West Ham.

**AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:** First division: Portsmouth v Chelsea; Reading v Charlton (2.0); Swindon v Arsenal (at County Ground, 7.15).

**PONTIN'S LEAGUE:** Premier division: Leeds v Preston (7.0). **First division:** Oldham v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0); Port Vale v Burnley (7.0).

**WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE:** Premier league: Erith v Beckenham; Herne Bay v Faversham.

**SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE:** Premier division: Barnstaple v Bridgwater; Brislington v Bishop Sutton; Bristol Manor Farm v Melksham; Paulton Rovers v Chippenham; Westbury v Yeovil Town Rovers.

**MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE:** Premier division: Barkingside v Beaconsfield Sycob; Hoddesdon v Hillingdon Borough; Potters Bar Town v Islington St Mary's; St Margaretsbury v London Colney; Welwyn Garden v Brimsdown.

**COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE:** Premier division: Chessington and Hook v Netherne; Chipstead v Westfield; Farnham v Walton Casuals; Reading Town v Cobham; Viking Sports v Raynes Park Vale.

**JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE:** Premier division: Ely v Histon; Histon v Soham; Maldon v Newmarket; Sudbury Wanderers v Halstead; Wisbech v Fakenham.

**JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE:** First division: Christchurch v East Cowes.

**UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE:** Premier division: Cogenhoe v Kempston; Ford Sports v Buckingham; St Neots v Spalding; Stotfold v Yaxley.

**NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE:** Premier division: Glasshoughton Welfare v Burton Maltby M.W. v Thackley. **President's Cup: Final, first leg:** North Ferriby v Garforth Town.

**NORTH WESTERN TRAINS:** First division: Bootle v Salford; Mossley v Atherton LR; Nantwich Town v St Helens; Tetley Walker Cables v Leek C S O B; Skelmersdale v Atherton Collieries; Vauxhall G M v Rossendale.

**OTHER SPORT**

**ICE HOCKEY:** Sekonda play-off championship: Group B: Nottingham Panthers v Newcastle Riverkings (7.30)

## FOR THE RECORD

**ARCHERY**

**HAVANA, Cuba: World indoor target championships: Men compound individual:** 1, J Butts (US) 350pts; 2, J Mynott (GB) 350; 3, S Tarplee (GB) 352. **Other British placing:** 5, M Peart (GB) 174. **Men compound team:** 1, United States 530; 2, Great Britain 519; 3, Sweden 526. **Women's compound individual:** 1, A Kamuf (US) 347; 2, F Palazzini (It); 3, C Treneman (GB) 343.

**BASKETBALL**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA):** Washington 98 Milwaukee 86; Detroit 72 Atlanta 85; New York 94 Charlotte 86; Phoenix 104 Houston 90; Indiana 99 Boston 98; Miami 102 New Jersey 76; Sacramento 105 LA Lakers 101; Seattle 108 LA Clippers 89.

**BUDWEISER LEAGUE:** Sunday's result: Chester Jets 108 Peugeot Bullets Birmingham 109.

**BOWLS**

**BELFAST: British women's indoor championships: Semi-finals: Singles:** A Davies (Bro Ddyfi, Wales) bt A Doggart (Belfast, Ire) 21-17; C Hiom (Boston, Eng) w/o, M Letham (Blantyre, Scot) scr. **Finals: Singles:** Hiom bt Davies 21-19. **Pairs:** S McLeish and A Melrose (Midlothian, Scot) bt K Megrath and E Bell (Belfast, Ire) 17-12. **Triples:** J Brooksby, M Townsley, E Wren (Falkirk, Scot) bt P Calvin, A Elliott, J Mulholland (PTIBC, Ballymoney, Ire) 18-16. **Fours:** M Adams, R Gilmour, K Adams, J Williamson (Auchinleck, Scot) bt M Wilkinson, M Craig, M Cameron, G Law (County Antrim, Ire) 20-19.

**CANOEING**

**BALA, North Wales: Slalom national championship: Men: K1:** 1, P Ratcliffe (Llangollen) 3min 17.48sec; 2, S Pearce 3 20.97; 3, I Raspin (Teesside) 3 25.60. **C1:** 1, C Brown (C R Cats) 3 44.93; 2, S McIntosh (Arrowcraft) 3 49.58; 3, S Bowman (Des. Mos.) 3 50.36. **C2:** P Green and S Green (Independent) 4 16.48; 2, S Bowman and N Smith (Peak) 4 20.65; 3, A Roden and J Roden (Stafts & Stone) 4 41.86.

**CRICKET**

**Second Test match**

**New Zealand v South Africa**

CHRISTCHURCH (final day of five): New Zealand drew with South Africa

**NEW ZEALAND:** First Innings 168 (S M Pollock 4 for 34)

Second innings

| | |
|---|---|
| B A Young not out | 55 |
| M J Horne run out | 56 |
| R G Twose not out | 6 |
| Extras (nb 5, lb 5) | 10 |
| Total (one wkt) | 127 |

FALL OF WICKET: 107.

BOWLING: Pollock 12-4-23-0; Klusener 17-4-33-0; Adams 15-0-52-0; Kallis 6-2-13-0; Cronje 4-3-1-0.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** First Innings 442 for 1 declared (H H Gibbs 211 not out, J H Kallis 148 not out, G Kirsten 65).

Umpires: K T Francis (Sri Lanka) and D M Quested.

**Asian Test championship**

**Sri Lanka v Pakistan**

DHAKA (fourth day of five): Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by an innings and 175 runs

**SRI LANKA:** First Innings 231 (P A de Silva 72; Arshad Khan 5 for 38).

Second Innings

| | |
|---|---|
| R P Arnold c Wasim b Arshad | 30 |
| A Gunawardene c Shahid b Wasim | 0 |
| W P U C J Vaas b Wasim | 0 |
| D P M D Jayawardene c Wajahatullah b Wasim | 1 |
| M S Atapattu run out | 22 |
| *P A de Silva c Wajahatullah b Saqlain | 8 |
| H P Tillakaratne not out | 55 |
| †R S Kaluwitharana lbw b Shahid | 0 |
| U D U Chandana lbw b Shahid | 28 |
| G P Wickramasinghe b Shahid | 7 |
| K S C de Silva b Saqlain | 27 |
| Extras (b 4, lb 7, nb 1) | 12 |
| Total | 188 |

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-5, 3-9, 4-48, 5-59, 6-59, 7-81, 8-101, 9-115.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 7-0-33-3; Shoaib Akhtar 10.4-3-26-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 28.5-15-46-3; Arshad Khan 12-3-41-1; Shahid Afridi 7-1-31-2.

**PAKISTAN:** First Innings: 594 (Ijaz Ahmed 211, Inzamam-ul-Haq 200 not out, Saeed Anwar 57; U D U Chandana 6 for 179)

Umpires: D B Cowie (New Zealand) and D R Shepherd (England).

**CYCLING**

**ALBA ADRIATICA, Italy: Tirreno-Adriatico race: Sixth stage (170km):** 1, R Vainsteins (Lat) 3hr 49min 2sec; 2, F Baldato (It); 3, G Matteo Fagnini (It); 4, B Conte (It); 5, T Hoffman (Holl) all same time; 6, M Genetti (Switz) at 2sec; 7, P Ugrumov (Russ); 8, G Raimondi (It) 1:49; 9, A Petacchi (It); 10, J Svorada (Cz) both same time.

**FIVES**

**WINCHESTER COLLEGE: Men's national doubles championship: Quarter-finals:** 1 Fuller and D Hebden bt J Armitage and J Gribble 15-2, 15-0; S Constantine and R Barr bt T Macone and R Billington 15-4, 15-9; N Austin and R Nagy bt A Wilson and J Schroeter 6-15, 15-13, 15-8; H Buchanan and R Perry bt H Wiseman and M Wiseman 15-6, 15-9. **Semi-finals:** Fuller and Hebden bt Constantine and Barr 15-6, 15-0; Buchanan and Perry bt Austin and Nagy 15-6, 12-15, 15-13. **Final:** Fuller and Hebden bt Buchanan and Perry 15-7, 15-10.

**Women's National Championships. Singles: Quarter-finals:** P Smith bt T Marden 15-4; K White bt A Wells 15-6; D Hall-Wilton bt D Watson 15-6; E Tadman bt M Love 15-3. **Semi-finals:** Smith bt White 15-7; Tadman bt Hall-Wilton 15-7. **Final:** Smith bt Tadman 15-7, 15-9. **Doubles: Semi-finals:** P Smith and D Hall-Wilton bt A Wells and M Rees 15-7; K White and E Tadman bt M Love and G Yateman 15-7. **Final:** Smith and Hall-Wilton bt White and Tadman 15-9, 15-7.

**FOOTBALL**

**ARGENTINE LEAGUE:** Independiente 1 Newell's Old Boys 1; Union 2 Huracan 2; Gimnasia de Jujuy 0 Boca Juniors 2; Estudiantes de la Plata 3 Velez Sarsfield 1; San Lorenzo 3 Colon 1; Talleres 3 Platense 2; Rosario Central 2 Racing Club 1; Ferrocarril Oeste 0 Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata 1; River Plate 2 Argentinos Juniors 0.

**BRAZILIAN LEAGUE:** Santos 1 Matonense 1; Mogi Mirim 0 Portuguesa 1; Portuguesa Santista 2 Rio Branco 2; Corinthians 0 Sao Paulo 3; Barbarense 0 Palmeiras 1; Guarani 1 Internacional Limeira 2.

**GOLF**

**FLORIDA: Honda Classic: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): 277:** V Singh (Fiji) 71, 69, 68, 69. **279:** P Stewart 70, 67, 72, 70. **280:** E Booker 65, 66, 72, 77; D Dunakey 70, 65, 75, 70; C Franco (Par) 72, 68, 71, 69; M O'Meara 68, 70, 69, 73. **282:** H Sutton 64, 73, 76, 69; T Tolles 70, 66, 69, 77. **283:** D Hart 70, 72, 72, 69; C Riley 69, 71, 72, 71; S Appleby (Aus) 69, 70, 69, 75. **284:** C DiMarco 75, 68, 70, 71; M Brooks 70, 73, 70, 71; D Sutherland 70, 72, 70, 72. **285:** J Kaye 70, 72, 72, 71; J Cook 70, 69, 74, 72; P Stankowski 69, 67, 76, 73; S Pate 69, 70, 73, 73; J Gallagher 72, 67, 72, 74; D Pride 67, 68, 75, 75; R Estes 72, 68, 70, 75; C Stadler 69, 69, 71, 76; B Geiberger 72, 66, 71, 76; H Frazar 69, 72, 66, 78; J Ogilvie 72, 71, 65, 77; B Hughes (Aus) 67, 68, 70, 80. **Other scores: 287:** C Montgomerie (GB) 72, 70, 72, 73. **293:** A Lyle (GB) 72, 71, 76, 74.

**PGA RANKINGS** (United States unless stated): 1, T Woods 12.70pts; 2, D Duval 11.11; 3, M O'Meara 9.92; 4, E Els (SA) 9.85; 5, D Love III 9.79; 6, L Westwood (GB) 9.10; 7, V Singh (Fiji) 8.70; 8, C Montgomerie (GB) 8.41; 9, N Price (Zim) 7.78; 10, J Leonard 7.51; 11, P Mickelson 7.29; 12, J Furyk 7.27; 13, F Couples 7.05; 14, M Ozaki (Japan) 6.72; 15, J Maggert 6.28; 16, S Elkington (Aus) 6.20; 17, D Clarke (GB) 5.78; 18, P Stewart 5.75; 19, J Parnevik (Swe) 5.57; 20, Lee Janzen 5.0.

**TUCSON, Arizona: Welsh's/Circle K championship: Leading final scores** (United States unless stated): **273:** J Inkster 68, 71, 69, 65. **274:** D Pepper 67, 69, 69, 69. **275:** C Matthew (GB) 73, 69, 65, 68. **276:** A Price-Bunch 67, 71, 72, 66; T Green 68, 73, 67, 68; H Stacy 72, 68, 66, 70; N Scranton 70, 65, 71, 70. **277:** K Webb (Aus) 74, 69, 66, 68; H Alfredsson (Swe) 69, 67, 73, 68. **278:** M Redman 71, 69, 65, 73; D Eggeling 66, 67, 69, 74. **279:** A DeLuca 68, 74, 69, 68; C Sorenstam (Swe) 72, 70, 68, 69. **280:** M Mallon 70, 73, 68, 69; M Dunn 73, 69, 69, 69; K Robbins 72, 67, 70, 71; T Hanson 71, 67, 71, 71. **Other scores: 282:** M McKay (GB) 73-71-70-68. **289:** J Morley (GB) 72, 73, 72, 72; L Davies (GB) 71, 71, 74, 73; S Lowe (GB) 72, 73, 70, 74.

**ICE HOCKEY**

**NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL):** Nashville 3 Edmonton 1; Chicago 2 St Louis 5; Colorado 1 Detroit 3; NY Islanders 2 NY Rangers 3 (OT).

**SEKONDA PLAY-OFF CHAMPIONSHIP: Group A:** Manchester Storm 4 London Knights 1; Sheffield Steelers 3 Bracknell Bees 4. **Group B:** Cardiff Devils 6 Ayr Scottish Eagles 3; Newcastle Riverkings 2 Nottingham Panthers 3.

**LACROSSE**

**HIGH WYCOMBE: Under-19 Canada Tour:** Wycombe Abbey School 15 Canada 4; Berkhamstead Collegiate 7 Canada 7.

**RUGBY UNION**

**WALES SQUAD** (to face Italy in Treviso March 20): **S Howarth** (Manchester Sale), **G Thomas** (Cardiff), **M Taylor** (Swansea), **S Gibbs** (Swansea), **D James** (Pontypridd), **N Jenkins** (Pontypridd), **R Howley** (Cardiff, capt), **P Rogers** (London Irish), **G Jenkins** (Swansea), **B Evans** (Swansea), **C Quinnell** (Richmond), **C Wyatt** (Llanelli), **C Charvis** (Swansea), **B Sinkinson** (Neath), **S Quinnell** (Llanelli). **Replacements: N Boobyer** (Llanelli), **N Walne** (Richmond), **D Llewellyn** (Ebbw Vale), **G Lewis** (Pontypridd), **M Voyle** (Llanelli), **D Morris** (Swansea), **B Williams** (Richmond).

**SCOTLAND SQUAD (to face Ireland at Murrayfield March 20): Gary Armstrong** (Newcastle Falcons), **Craig Chalmers** (Edinburgh Reivers), **Iain Fairley** (Edinburgh Reivers), **John Leslie** (Glasgow Caledonians), **Kenny Logan** (Wasps), **Shaun Longstaff** (Glasgow Caledonians), **Glenn Metcalfe** (Glasgow Caledonians), **Cameron Murray** (Edinburgh Reivers), **Alan Tait** (Edinburgh Reivers), **Gregor Townsend** (Brive), **Steven Brotherstone** (Edinburgh Reivers), **Gordon Bulloch** (Glasgow Caledonians), **Paul Burnell** (London Scottish), **Stuart Grimes** (Glasgow Caledonians), **David Hilton** (Bath), **Martin Leslie** (Edinburgh Reivers), **Scott Murray** (Bedford), **Eric Peters** (Bath), **Budge Pountney** (Northampton), **Andy Reed** (Wasps), **Tom Smith** (Glasgow Caledonians), **Peter Walton** (Newcastle Falcons).

**SNOOKER**

**WPBSA RANKINGS:** 1, J Higgins (Scot) 40,405pts; 2, S Hendry (Scot) 29,590; 3, M Williams (Wales) 28,910; 4, R O'Sullivan (Eng) 27,475; 5, J Parrott (Eng) 24,260; 6, S Lee (Eng) 23,805; 7, K Doherty (Ire) 23,015; 8, A McManus (Scot) 21,275; 9, M Stevens (Wales) 18,870; 10, P Hunter (Eng) 18,115.

**SNOWBOARDING**

**OLAND, Italy: World Cup event: Cross:** 1, U Fingerlos (Austria); 2, M Riegler (Austria); 3, J Jonsson (Swe). **British placing:** 5, L McKenna. **Half-pipe:** 1, T Byrnes (US); 2, V Boudier (Fr); 3, K Stacey (US). **British placing:** 15, McKenna.

**SQUASH**

**VIENNA: Austrian Open: Men: Final:** S Handley (Eng) bt M Fitens (Aus) 17-14, 2-15, 9-15, 15-12, 15-8.

**TOULOUSE: Women's Open: Final:** T Malik (Wales) bt S Shabana (Egypt) 9-3, 7-9, 9-7, 9-7.

**TENNIS**

**INDIAN WELLS, California: Champions' Cup: Final:** M Philippoussis (Aus) bt C Moya (Sp) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

**HOLYPORT: British Amateur Singles Championships: Second round:** J Snow bt A Lumsden 6-2, 6-0, 6-0; C Danby bt H Eddis 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-5; J Acheson-Gray bt B Feure-Beaulieu 6-1, 6-0, 6-0; N Lloyd bt N Pendrigh w/o; M Ward bt P Miles 6-2, 6-4, 6-4; R Kranaric bt J Prenn 6-1, 6-3, 6-0; J Willocks bt S Barker w/o.

**ATP RANKINGS:** 1, C Moyà (Sp) 3464pts; 2, P Sampras (US) 3447; 3, Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 3382; 4, A Corretja (Sp) 3250; 5, P Rafter (Aus) 3115; 6, T Henman (GB) 2926; 7, R Krajicek (Holl) 2677; 8, M Rios (Chile) 2434; 9, A Agassi (US) 2376; 10, T Martin (US) 2300.

**WTA RANKINGS:** 1, M Hingis (Switz) 5,449; 2, L Davenport (US) 5,215; 3, M Seles (US) 3,832; 4, J Novotna (Cz) 3,755; 5, A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 3,067; 6, V Williams (US) 2,987; 7, S Graf (Ger) 2,920; 8, M Pierce (Fr) 2,336; 9, A Coetzer (SA) 2,123; 10, N Tauziat (Fr) 2,109.

## POOLS FORECAST

Saturday, March 20
Coupon no. fixture, result

**FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP**
1 Arsenal v Coventry 1
2 Leeds v Derby 1
3 Nott'm F v Middlesbro X
4 South'pton v Sheff Wed 2
5 West Ham v Newcastle X

**NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION**
6 Barnsley v Wolves 2
7 Bristol C v Bradford C 2
8 Crewe v Oxford 1
9 Crystal P v Grimsby 1
10 Hudd'field v Birmingham 2
11 Norwich v Portsmouth 2
12 QPR v Swindon 1
13 Sheff Utd v Port Vale 1
14 Stockport v Tranmere 1
15 Watford v Bury 1
16 West Brom v Ipswich X

**SECOND DIVISION**
17 Chesterfield v Luton 1
18 Fulham v Blackpool 1
19 Gillingham v Lincoln 1
20 North'pton v Macclesf'ld 2
21 Oldham v Millwall X
22 Preston v Bournemouth 1
23 Reading v Wycombe 1
24 Stoke v Notts County X
25 Walsall v Bristol R 1
26 Wrexham v Burnley 1
27 York v Wigan 2

**THIRD DIVISION**
28 Camb'ge v Mansfield 1
29 Carlisle v Brentford X
30 Darlington v Southend X
31 Hartlepool v Brighton 1
32 Hull v Plymouth 1
33 Rochdale v Barnet 2
34 Rotherham v Peterboro 1
35 Scunthorpe v Leyton O X
36 Shrewsbury v Chester 1
37 Swansea v Halifax 1
38 Torquay v Scarboro 1

**SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE**
39 Dundee v Hearts X
40 Dunf'mline v St Johnst'ne 2
41 Motherwell v Aberdeen 1
42 Rangers v Dundee U 1

**SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION**
43 Ayr v St Mirren 2
44 Clydebank v Raith 1
45 Falkirk v Hamilton 1
46 Hibernian v Airdrie 1
47 Stranraer v G Morton 2

**SECOND DIVISION**
48 Alloa v Queen of South X
49 Clyde v Arbroath 1

**TREBLE CHANCE** (home teams): Nottingham Forest, West Ham, West Bromwich, Oldham, Stoke, Carlisle, Darlington, Scunthorpe, Dundee, Alloa.

**BEST DRAWS:** Nottingham Forest, West Ham, West Bromwich, Carlisle, Darlington

**AWAYS:** Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Macclesfield, Wigan, Barnet.

**HOMES:** Arsenal, Leeds, Crewe, Watford, Gillingham, Reading, Hartlepool, Swansea, Torquay

**FIXED ODDS: Homes:** Arsenal, Crewe, Hartlepool, Swansea, Torquay. **Aways:** Birmingham, Macclesfield, Wigan. **Draws:** West Ham, West Bromwich, Carlisle

■ Vince Wright

**CRICKET:** AUSTRALIA ON BACK FOOT AS LARA SHAKES OFF DOUBTS OVER HIS CAPTAINCY

# West Indies are sunny side up

FROM PAT GIBSON IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA

THE morning haze had still not been burnt off the Blue Mountains that form the magnificent backdrop to Sabina Park here when Brian Lara was out yesterday, having added only one to his overnight 212 in the second Test aginst Australia, but the sun was shining again on West Indies cricket.

It is impossible to evaluate the long-term effect of arguably the greatest innings that even he has played but, for the moment, there was no doubt that it had lifted the mood of not only his West Indies team but also the entire Caribbean. Certainly no one was questioning his right to be captain any more.

Lara being Lara, he would have had his sights set on his Test-record 375, if not his highest first-class score of 501 not out, when he resumed his innings, so there was an overwhelming sense of anticlimax when he pushed forward to a fine ball from Glenn McGrath that pitched just outside off stump but straightened and gave Ian Healy, the wicketkeeper, his first catch of the series.

He had batted for 466 minutes, faced 344 deliveries and hit three sixes and 29 fours in a performance that made a mockery of what he is supposed to have said to Steve Waugh, the Australia captain, when he lost the toss.

"Thank goodness I will not have to go through this again," Lara is purported to have said. We may never know whether he was expecting to be dismissed or planning to resign, but he had brought about such a transformation that the bookmakers' odds of 7-4 on an Australia win and 20-1 against West Indies at the start of the second day had changed to 8-1 against Australia and 15-8 on West Indies by yesterday morning.

How much his batting means to his side was further emphasised when, starting with his dismissal, they lost their last six wickets for 54, but they still had a potentially decisive lead of 175 on a pitch beginning to misbehave.

Nor should the support that Lara received from Jimmy Adams, his supposed rival for the captaincy, in a record-breaking fifth-wicket stand of 322 be underestimated. As Lara was quick to point out: "There is no doubt that, without Jimmy's help, it would not have been possible. He was really special."

Until the arrival of Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Adams had been regarded as the most reliable batsman in the West Indies, but his Test average, 86 in 14 Tests at the start of the last Australian series four years ago, had dwindled to 51 in 33 at the start of this one.

His cheekbone and his confidence had been shattered on the 1995 tour of England, but he has never lost his love of batting. His patience and unselfishness perfectly complemented Lara's brilliant strokeplay.

It was a shame Adams was not rewarded with a century. He has not made one in Tests since his 208 not out against New Zealand in Antigua three years ago and he was still six runs short yesterday when he did not quite get across to a short, lifting ball from McGrath and was caught in the gully. That gave McGrath his third five-wicket haul in successive Test innings.

Ridley Jacobs and Nehemiah Perry, the smiling Jamaican off spinner who is making his Test debut, added valuable runs before the leg spinners, Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill, finally got into the act. When Warne had Jacobs caught at mid-on, he was taking his first wicket in 58 overs since he dismissed England's Mark Butcher in the Sydney Test and MacGill was into his 21st over when he had Pedro Collins caught at slip.

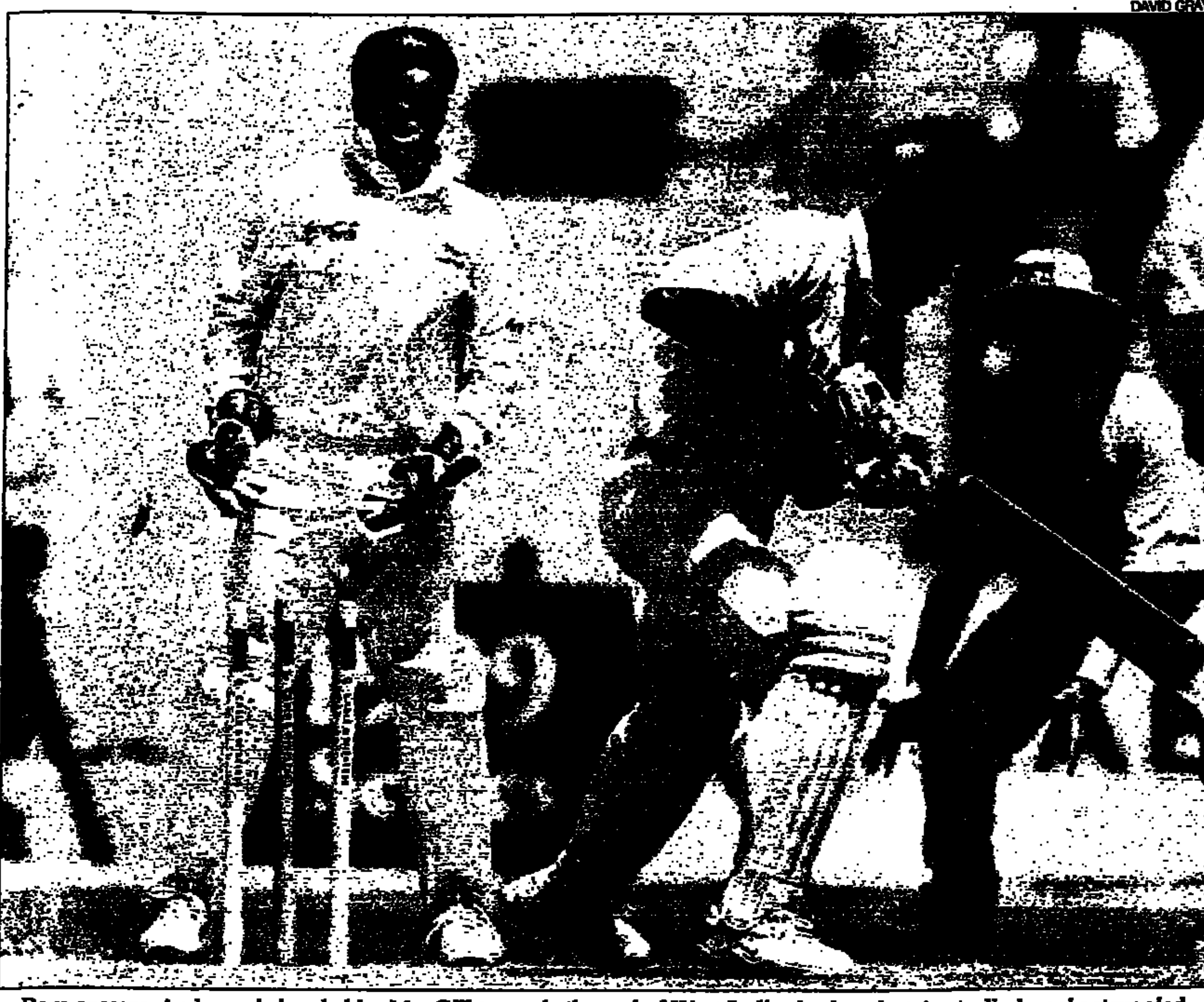
MacGill went on to leave himself on a hat-trick by removing Curtly Ambrose with the last ball before lunch and Courtney Walsh with the first one afterwards, but by then West Indies, who had not made 300 in their previous 12 Test innings, had reached 431.

Not just the leg spinners struggled. Steve Waugh sometimes had been found wanting, too, on the first occasion that he has been put under pressure as captain.

To add to his problems, the pitch that had played so well on the second day was beginning to crack and Ambrose and Walsh, who could not remember the last time they had been able to put their feet up for so long, were relishing the chance to prove that they are not finished yet.

Sure enough, in his first over, Walsh struck for his 409th Test wicket when Michael Slater, trying to cut, played on.

DAVID GRAY



Rare success: Ambrose is bowled by MacGill towards the end of West Indies innings but Australia largely struggled

## SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First Innings 256 (S R Waugh 100).

Second innings

| | |
|---|---|
| M T G Elliot lbw b Perry | 16 |
| M J Slater b Walsh | 0 |
| J L Langer not out | 19 |
| M E Waugh not out | 0 |
| Extras (nb, 4) | 4 |
| Total (2 wkts, 21.5 overs) | 39 |

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-36.

BOWLING: Ambrose 5-2-7-0; Walsh 7-1-15-1; Perry 6-3-7-1; Collins 3.5-0-10-0.

WEST INDIES: First innings

| | |
|---|---|
| S L Campbell b McGrath | 12 |
| S Ragoonath lbw b Gillespie | 0 |
| L A Roberts c Warne b McGrath | 0 |
| *B C Lara c Healey b McGrath | 213 |
| D R E Joseph c Blewett b McGrath | 14 |
| P T Collins c M E Waugh b McGrath | 13 |
| J C Adams c Elliot b MacGill | 94 |
| †R D Jacobs c Elliot b Warne | 25 |
| N O Perry not out | 15 |
| C E L Ambrose b MacGill | 3 |
| C A Walsh lbw b MacGill | 0 |
| Extras (b 12, lb 8, nb 22) | 42 |
| Total | 431 |

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-5, 3-17, 4-34, 5-378, 6-398, 7-420, 8-427, 9-431.

BOWLING: McGrath 35-11-93-5; Gillespie 33-7-79-1; Warne 30-8-94-1; MacGill 22.3-3-84-3; Blewett 10-1-48-0; M E Waugh 2-0-13-0.

Umpires: P Willey (England) and S A Bucknor.

# Pakistan confirm status as Asian champions

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAKISTAN carried off the first Asian Test championship in commanding style by beating Sri Lanka by an innings and 175 runs in the final at Dhaka yesterday, completing victory with a day to spare.

Sri Lanka, who resumed their second innings at nine for three, were bowled out for 188, but at 61 for seven they were in danger of failing to surpass their lowest Test score of 71, made against Pakistan in Kandy five years ago.

Some lusty hitting by Upul Chandana and Hashan Tillekeratne spared them that indignity, Tillekeratne ending on 55 not out, having hit ten fours. He shared a last-wicket partnership of 73 with Sajeewa De Silva. Both Saqlain Mushtaq, who finished with three for 46, and Arshad Khan extracted turn and bounce and Shaid Afridi, with his quicker variety of leg breaks, also gained some purchase on a wearing pitch.

The Pakistan captain, Wasim Akram, who on Sunday took his second hat-trick in consecutive Tests against Sri Lanka, was named man of the series, in which India were the third contestants. Ijaz Ahmed, who scored a maiden double-century to lay the foundation for Pakistan's match-winning total of 594, was the man of the match.

Yesterday, Wasim made his presence felt in the field. A fine throw to run out Marvan Atapattu broke the fourth-wicket partnership with Russell Arnold, who was then picked up at slip by Wasim, aiming a loose drive at Arshad.

Some consolation for Sri Lanka came when their buccaneering opening batsman, Sanath Jayasuriya, injured during the tour of Australia, said that was he certain to be fit for the World Cup, although he will miss a three-nations tournament in India.

"My recovery has been good and I can bat," Jayasuriya said, "but I don't know if I can field 100 per cent."



# Atherton and Thorpe lift England's cup plans

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND have been given a clean bill of health before they complete their preparations for the World Cup this summer by entering the Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah next month.

Doubts over Michael Atherton, Graham Thorpe, Neil Fairbrother and Ian Austin after recent injuries left England facing the possibility of choosing replacements before their departure for the Lahore training camp on March 28.

But Atherton and Thorpe, both of whom were troubled by back injuries in Australia this winter, have had intensive treatment at Lilleshall while Austin, who underwent knee surgery last October, has also recovered. Fairbrother, his Lancashire team-mate, suffered hamstring trouble throughout the Carlton and United one-day tournament in Australia.

"We are pleased the fitness reports on the players are encouraging," David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said. "All of them need to continue to work on their overall fitness levels and they will do that before we depart for Lahore."

Atherton and Austin will gain useful match practice on Lancashire's tour of South Africa, which began yesterday, but Fairbrother has stayed at home to exercise.

Middlesex have signed Mike Roseberry, their former batsman, from Durham. Roseberry, 32, had ten seasons at Lord's before leaving to captain his native county four years ago.

However, his career at Durham has been affected by loss of form and injury and he is leaving the club with two years of a six-year contract still to run.

South Africa's hopes of forcing victory over New Zealand on the final day of the second Test in Christchurch were dashed by the weather and the home side's opening batsmen.

Rain prevented any play until the afternoon and when the action did resume Matthew Horne and Bryan Young secured their side's survival with a stand of 107.

Mohammed Azharuddin, the world's most-capped one-day player, will captain India for the third consecutive time in the World Cup this summer. Sachin Tendulkar's back injury is causing concern, however, and the announcement of the India squad will be delayed until April 4.





Azharuddin: third cup

## WORD-WATCHING

*Answers from page 45*

**HAWKSHAW**

(c) A detective. The eponym of the detective in The Ticket-of-Leave Man (1863), a play by Tom Taylor, English dramatist (1817-1880). Also in the comic strip Hawkshaw the Detective, by Gus Mager, American cartoonist (died 1956). "He didn't even whimper when the village hawkshaw snappoed the bracelets on his wrist."

**MOUFFLON**

(c) A breed of sheep. Also its fur or wollen fabric made from it. "The adult wild moufflon is in its proportions but little in advance of the improved Suffolk lamb."

**NOTAPHILY**

(b) The collecting of bank-notes as a hobby. The nota- is Latin, the -phily is Greek. The Times, 1973: "Collectors have coined the ugly name notaphilists to describe themselves. About 20 of the highest-denomination notaphilists came to the auction."

**HELIODOR**

(c) A richly coloured variety of golden beryl found in South West Africa. The Greek words mean sun gift. "Heliodor is found only on the barren slopes of Rossing Mountain. Apparently it does not exist anywhere else in the world. German prospectors discovered the first deposit, and the lovely greenish-yellow opalescent stones were set in the form of a cross."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

1 Rxe4! fxe4 2 Be5+! dxe5 3 Qxe5+ Kg8 4 d6+ and the black queen goes.

TELEVISION CHOICE

# Portrait of an icon

**Close Up: Germaine Greer**
*BBC2, 9.30pm*

This portrait begins and ends with close-ups of Dr Greer dissecting a lump of raw liver into which she is pressing what turns out to be a fertility amulet. She then photographs this rather bloody mess, hoping it will provide the cover for her new book, *The Whole Woman*. Her publishers are wary . . . Germaine Greer has moved on since the heady days of her feminist classic *The Female Eunuch*. When that appeared in 1971 it made her an icon, but now she looks back on those days with a kind of tender contempt — laughing at old amateur films which show her not as a stern academic and critic but as a gorgeous, uninhibited clown. The subtitle of the new book is *It's Time to Get Angry Again*. "But," says Dr Greer, almost wistfully, "my aim is always the same — I want women to be happier than they are."

**Animal Hospital**
*BBC1, 8pm*

A sixth series for this award-winner is no surprise. Animals — especially animals in trouble — are very often the answer to a network's prayer. They involve no salaries, no contracts, no royalties and yet they are the biggest audience-pullers in the business. So, welcome again to Putney Animal Hospital, to Rolf Harris, Shauna Lowry, Rhodri Williams *et al*. Tonight an underweight hedgehog has wandered in from a park, out of hibernation early because of the mild weather. Shauna accompanies it to Pickles, a hedgehog haven currently sheltering about 50 guests, many of which are soon to be returned to the wild.

**The Football Millionaires**
*BBC1, 10.30pm (Northern Ireland, 11.20pm)*

In Alan Hansen's day — the Liverpool star left the game in 1991 and is now a stalwart on *Match of the Day* — the clubs held all the power in contract negotiations. Today it's the players. The Newcastle striker and England captain Alan Shearer says: "There will never ever be a better time to be a footballer." Well, in monetary terms, probably not. The cream of the younger stars turn out for Hansen (he speaks their language, after all), plus a scrum of agents, former players, managers and football-crazy youngsters. The lads are not the most scintillating of interviewees — but you can almost smell the money.



Alan Hansen talks to soccer's superstars, such as David Beckham (BBC1, 10.30pm)

**The Larry Sanders Show**
*BBC2, 11.35pm*

Sanders has a big hand in the writing and production of this series, so when he blasts away at corporate politicians in the television industry you feel he's trying to tell us something — or at least tell his American colleagues on the slippery slopes. In under half an hour this episode says more about the back-stabbing that goes on among agents, stars and studio bosses than many a more learned tract. The fun (and the F-words) are still there but the underlying irony has a dying fall. It looks, when they strip him of his familiar on-set desk, as if Larry might be for the chop. So he jumps the gun and tells his loyal studio audience that he's going to leave anyway. Surely not. This may be the last of the present series but another is in the pipeline . . . isn't it? **Elizabeth Cowley**

RADIO CHOICE

**Face The Facts**
*Radio 4, 8pm*

Bells and whistles programming is all very well in its place but *Face The Facts*, returning for a new series, is a perfect example of how good radio can be when it is pared to the bone. I shall not dwell again on the tiresome decision to move the show to the evening schedule from its old slot at 9.05am, except to say that investigative journalism is thin enough on the ground without having this programme's audience reduced by a move to the evening. John Waite sets the tone: he maintains the evenness of intonation usually associated with a Samaritan talking a man off a window-ledge and he pursues assorted snake-oil salesmen up stairs and down corridors with the measured relentlessness of a tiger stalking an antelope.

**Afternoon Play: The Winter Journey**
*Radio 4, 2.15pm*

There has been a deal of welcome structural innovation in the *Afternoon Play* slot and today's offering maintains that trend. *The Winter Journey* is at once bleak and uplifting; it is really three perspectives on the same (true) story, by three writers. The linking strand is the three-year British expedition to Antarctica which set out in 1910. The play has each of the men in turn reflecting on the journey, the time spent in a stone igloo when their supply tent blew away and their return to base camp. But other layers, such as the men's relationships with women, are explored and extracts from Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen* are woven into the narrative. Kenneth Cranham, David Rintoul and James Fleet star. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

**6.30am** Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley **2.00pm** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session **10.00** Digital Update **10.10** John Peel. Bonnie Prince Billy in session **12.00** The Breezeblock **2.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

**6.00am** Alex Lester **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Bits **8.00** Nigel Ogden **9.00** Paddy in the Smoke. A look at the contribution the Irish heve made to English life **10.00** The Directors: Neil Jordan **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00** Katrina Leskanich **3.00am** Mo Dutta

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

**5.00am** Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** Midday News **1.00pm** The Cheltenham Festival. Coverage and commentary from the opening day of the National Hunt festival, including at 3.15 The Smurfit Champion Hurdle **4.10** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** The Tuesday Match. Coverage of the night's action, including the second leg of the Uefa Cup quarter-finals **10.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

**6.00am** The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm & Sally James **12.00** Crime Fighters **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** The Sports Zone **7.00** The World of Formula 1 **8.00** Cheating Hearts **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

VIRGIN

**6.30am** Chris Evans **9.30** Russ Williams **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** Mark Forrest **1.00am** James Merritt **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

**5.00am** The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Performance **8.20** Off the Shelf: Enduring Love **8.35** Discovery **9.00** World News **9.05** The Moonstone **9.20** Junction Box **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Good Books **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Omnibus **12.00** World News **12.05pm** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Discovery **2.30** On Screen **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** Westway **3.30** Everywoman **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Megamix **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Omnibus **7.00** World News **7.05** Discovery **7.30** Human Remains **7.45** Off the Shelf: Enduring Love **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Live **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Megamix **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00** The World Today **12.30am** Discovery **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** On Screen **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Mapping the World **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

**6.00am** Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **9.00** Michael Mappin. Includes the Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week **12.00** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones introduces listeners' favourite pieces of music **2.00pm** Concerto. Vivaldi (Cello Concerto in F major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Includes information updates, Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance **6.30** Newsnight. Sport, finance and news updates, with John Brunning **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces two hours of easy-listening sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Brahms (Tragic Overture; Variations on a theme of Haydn); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A major); Handel (Water Music Suite No 1 in F major) **11.00** Mann at Night. Music and conversation through till the small hours with Alan Mann **2.00am** Concerto. Vivaldi (Cello Concerto in F major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. Introduces the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

**6.00am On Air** Petroc Trelawny presents music and news, with a review of the National Theatre production of *Troilus and Cressida*
**9.00 Masterworks** with Peter Hobday. Wagner (Die Meistersinger, Prelude to Act 1); Debussy (Cinq poemes de Baudelaire); Wagner (Parsifal, Prelude to Act 1); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 20 in D minor, K466); Debussy (Fetes galantes, Set 1)
**10.30 Artist of the Week: Gillian Weir**
**11.00 Sound Stories: Medical Matters** A look at Schumann's psychiatric problems
**12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss**
**1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Nicholas Daniel, oboe, Julius Drake, piano. Harty (A la Campagne); John Gardner (Oboe Sonata No 2 in C); Julian Anderson (The Bearded Lady); Schumann, arr Ferguson (Three Duos)
**2.00 The BBC Orchestras** BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadaaki Otaka, Paul Mann and Mark Wigglesworth, Paul Watkins, cello. Dvorak (Carnival Overture; Symphony No 7 in D minor); Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D)
**4.00 Voices:** Schubert Voices (r)
**4.45 Music Machine** Tommy Pearson continues his look at chamber music
**5.00 In Tune** Sean Rafferty introduces live music from Monica Huggett's ensemble Sonnerie
**7.30 Performance on 3** Chris de Souza introduces the second of four concerts given by the Borodin Quartet at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol. Brahms (String Quartet No 2 in A minor, Op 51 No 2); Tchaikovsky (String Quartet No 2 in F, Op 22)
**9.00 Postscript: The Pas de Deux** (2/5)
**9.20 Nash Ensemble** under Martyn Brabbins, Ian Brown, piano, Rosemary Hardy, soprano. Beethoven (Trio in B flat, Op 11); Berg, arr de Leeuw (Seven Early Songs); Mahler (Des knaben Wunderhorn); Strauss (Suite for 13 Wind Instruments, Op 4)
**10.45 Night Waves** How does public space improve the life of those who live in cities? Richard Coles examines the meaning, function and importance of our urban social spaces
**11.30 Jazz Notes** Ahmet Ertegun, the founder of Atlantic Records, tells Alyn Shipton about his passion for jazz
**12.00 Composer of the Week: Delius** (r)
**1.00am Through the Night 1.00** Musica Antiqua Koln and director Reinhard Goebel perform music from 17th-century northern Europe **2.15** Beethoven (Piano Sonata in A flat, Op 110) **2.40** Corelli (Trio Sonata in A minor, Op 1 No 4 **2.45** Chopin (Andante spianato and Grande polonaise brillante) **3.00** Schools: Playtime **3.15** Time to Move **3.35** Let's Make a Story **3.50** Drama Workshop **4.10** In the News **4.30** Hop, Skip and Jump **4.45** Anns a' bhad **5.00** Chopin (Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38) **5.15** Weber (Clarinet Quintet in B flat, Op 34) **5.45** Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in G)

RADIO 4

**5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast**
**5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day**
**5.47 Farming Today** News and issues in rural Britain, presented by Ashley Gething
**6.00 Today** with James Naughtie and Sue MacGregor
**8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Update on political developments
**9.00 Unreliable Evidence** The mysteries of the legal system, explored with the aid of expert guests
**9.30 Home Thoughts** Nick Barker concludes his series about ex-pat magazines and newspapers, looking at the Asian weekly *Eastern Eye* (5/5)
**9.45 (LW) Daily Service**
**9.45 (FM) Serial: Letters from My Windmill** Stephen Fry reads extracts from Alphonse Daudet's reflections on his spiritual love affair with Provence
**10.00 Woman's Hour** with Martha Kearney
**11.00 Nature** The fragile balance of nature which exists on isolated islands — a balance invariably jeopardised by human exploitation (r)
**11.30 Chambers** John Fuller-Carp finds himself attracted to one of his clients. John Bird and James Fleet star (2/4)
**12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast**
**12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours** Topical consumer news and investigations, presented by Mark Whittaker and Trice Rawlinson
**1.00 The World at One** with Nick Clarke
**1.30 The Musical Side of the Family** The Rt Rev Brian Hannon of Clogher talks about the challenges of having a rock star son (2/6)
**2.00 The Archers** Broadcast yesterday (r)
**2.15 Afternoon Play: The Winter Journey** Tale of an Antarctic expedition to study penguin embryology. Written by Patricia Hannah, G.W. Fraser and Minna Bluff. See Choice
**3.00 The Exchange: 0870 010 0444** Peter White invites listeners' views on a topical issue
**3.30 Carnival Tales** Mark Rickards gatecrashes the party in Recife, Brazil (2/5)
**3.45 This Sceptred Isle** Anna Massey narrates part 52 of the history of Britain (r)
**4.00 The Learning Curve** The *Times* columnist Libby Purves joins a "poetry confessional" in Leeds
**4.30 Shop Talk** Business matters
**5.00 PM** with Chris Lowe and Clare English
**6.00 Six O'Clock News**
**6.30 Mammon** The Mammon Corporation launches a propaganda offensive against the euro (5/6)
**7.00 The Archers** Marjorie learns that she has only eight months left
**7.15 Front Row** The live nightly arts programme, presented by Mark Lawson
**7.45 The Cry of the Bittern** Environmental drama, starring Ian Pepperell. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
**8.00 Face the Facts** New series. See Choice
**8.40 In Touch** Peter White presents news for visually impaired people
**9.00 Virus: the Unseen Enemy** James Erlichman investigates the politics of disease, focusing on the lack of a vaccine for HIV (3/4)
**9.30 Unreliable Evidence** Broadcast earlier (r)
**10.00 The World Tonight** Presented by Justin Webb
**10.45 Book at Bedtime: Strait is the Gate** Abridged version of André Gide's story (2/5) (r)
**11.00 News 11.05 Late Night on 4: Do Go On** Comic conversations, with Ainsley Elliot, Jeff Dodman, Griff Rhys Jones and Graeme Garden (2/3)
**11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament** Political update
**11.30 (FM) Talking Pictures** Weekly guide to films and film-going, with Brian Sibley
**12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Mask of Command** Tim Pigott-Smith reads part two of John Keegan's account of leadership styles (r)
**12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe

# Fame beckons for a bunch of nickers

You can't blame Chris Terrill for wanting to use his fly-on-the-wall series *Jailbirds* (BBC1), to shatter our assumptions about what life inside a women's prison is like. But that didn't make it any less of a shock — especially for those of us who have tackled insomnia by watching late-night reruns of *Prisoner: Cell Block H* — to discover that women's jails are built every bit as solidly as men's prisons.

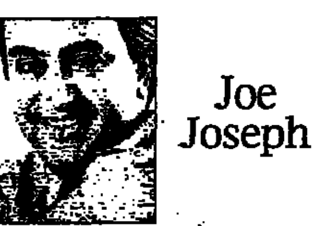
Apparently it is not normal for cell walls in women's prisons to wobble whenever the cell door is slammed shut by a warder, as happens in *Cell Block H*'s Wentworth. Nor, so far, have we seen anyone who mirrors the sadistic Wentworth warder Vera "Vinegar Tits" Bennett, as she was known to the inmates. If Terrill — who also made *The Cruise* — manages to turn *Jailbirds* into even one-tenth as big a cult as *Prisoner Cell Block H* became (in Los Angeles, the series developed such a following that anguished lesbians marched and mourned when lesbian biker Franky Doyle died in an attempted escape), he'll have an enormous hit on his hands. The star? It's too early to tell, after just one episode. But maybe the 27-year-old heroin addict Toni will be the one who gets catapulted to fame by *Jailbirds*, the way Jane, the cabaret singer was by *The Cruise*.

Toni Barker arrived at New Hall Prison in Yorkshire with an 18-month sentence (doesn't New Hall sound so like an Oxbridge college? You feel people should be arriving at New Hall with a scholarship rather than a sentence, and be assigned a room overlooking a quad rather than overlooking an exercise yard).

Toni was caught in possession of heroin. For all her granite-hard façade, she soon turns out to be more wobbly even than the studio sets of *Prisoner Cell Block H*. Within two days she has to be cut down from a noose. And there are plenty like her. Mike Goodwin, New Hall's Governor, says Britain's female prison population is soaring, "and we don't really know why".

What we do know is that, on average, one in 800 of the general population will do some harm to themselves. Among women prisoners, it's one in four. But almost more jolting than seeing Toni's traumatic initiation was overhearing another fresh arrival making her first phone call. "Listen," she says, matter-of-factly, when someone answers at the other end. "I've been remanded, orright? Till the 28th of this month. You gonna come and see me, yeah?" The information was imparted with no more drama that you'd invest in a call home to tell your partner that you're going to be late home from the office, so the movie will have to




wait for another night, orright? This woman had shoplifted £375 worth of underwear from Bhs.

This crime would seem more fathomable if you could imagine even one reason why any person would want or need £375 worth of Bhs underwear. The impression she gave was that she does this sort of thing regularly. Surely there can't be a black market for Bhs knickers, can there? How much lower than knicker-stealing can you stoop in the world of petty larceny (or even petticoat larceny)? Do thieves dream of being Raffles the way teenage writers dream of being Bellow, and then slowly acknowledge defeat, admitting to themselves, as the years pass, that they'll never rise much above pilfering chain-store hosiery — the Mills and Boon of crime?

But if it's one thing to pinch panties, it's quite another to shoot people — which is something you can do quite legally if you join the right organisations. While all the men in Nick O'Dwyer's **Cutting Edge: Shot** (Channel 4) who had shot somebody — a former soldier, a policeman — made killing sound like a gruesome but sometimes necessary job, they couldn't suppress a hint of smugness that made you feel that somewhere in their brains a little, macho, do-ya-feel-lucky-punk voice was punching the air and yelling "Yessss! I've done it, and you haven't!" It was no surprise to find that none of the shooters was a woman.

It's not that O'Dwyer — who interlaced his film with seductive, slow-motion, black-and-white footage of guns being loaded, triggers being cocked, chambers rotating — was setting out to make guns sexy; he was just acknowledging that, to many men, they clearly are extraordinarily alluring. A French Foreign Legionnaire, who once shot off a man's face, tells us that a gun "should be horrific, but it isn't. It's interesting and I don't know why."

An arms dealer confesses that "to my mind, it's almost a work of art", before explaining what this work of art does: "Imagine somebody standing over you, with a ton weight just above your head, and dropping it — that's about the sort of effect it would have." Even Jackson Pollock's art doesn't blow your brains out quite like that. And you can slip into killing so easily. "I wanted adventure," said the former Legionnaire, who was bored with his life in London's East End. "It was as simple as that." His family had been hoping he'd become something in telecoms. Perhaps he's now found a way of combining the two careers ("If you want to shoot a soldier, please press One; to kill a criminal, press Two; to shoot a civilian, press Three; if you have a preference for which rifle, please press Four . . .").

The gulf between what was, and what might have been, was also the mainspring of Tony Grounds's mesmerising **Births, Marriages and Deaths** (BBC2), which came to an end last night with Ray Winstone's Alan finally having shattered the happiness of every man, woman and child who fell in with him. Basically, life is nothing more than Russian roulette: and the Alans are the loaded chamber.

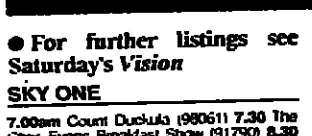
## BBC1

**6.00am Business Breakfast** (36326)
**7.00 BBC Breakfast News** (T) (72055)
**9.00 Kilroy** (T) (2566719)
**9.45 Wipeout** (4206484)
**10.10 The Vanessa Show** (T) (7455158)
**10.55 News;** Weather (T) (3008245)
**11.00 Change That** (3018622)
**11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (T) (3915581)
**11.55 News;** Weather (T) (7973719)
**12.00 Call My Bluff** (49622)
**12.30pm Top Tip Challenge** (r) (4549177)
**12.55 The Weather Show** (T) (53683177)
**1.00 One O'Clock News** (T) (75142)
**1.30 Regional News;** Weather (59432852)
**1.40 Neighbours** (T) (35572210)
**2.05 Ironside** (r) (5793055)
**2.55 Through the Keyhole** (r) (T) (9379697)
**3.30 Children's BBC:** Playdays (9695500) **3.45** Enchanted Lands (5057603) **3.55** Hububb (9787535) **4.10** Chipmunks Go to the Movies (5449806) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (3913055) **5.00** Newsround (4678581) **5.10** Grange Hill (9372968)
**5.33 Rewind** (T) (650149)
**5.35 Neighbours** (r) (T) (479264)
**6.00 Six O'Clock News;** Weather (T) (871)
**6.30 Regional News Magazine** (351)
**7.00 Holiday** (T) (1448)
**7.30 EastEnders** Peggy enters hospital for her mastectomy (T) (535)



A new series with Rhodri Williams, Rolf Harris, Shauna Lowry (8pm)

**8.00** CHOICE **Animal Hospital** New series, from the RSPCA's Putney Hospital (T) (4968)
**8.30 The Nick** Sankha Guha meets a convicted lawbreaker to find out about the criminal mind (T) (9603)
**9.00 Nine O'Clock News;** Weather (T) (1239)
**9.30 Jailbirds** Docusoap tracing life in a women-only prison (2/10) (T) (81142)
**10.00 Men Behaving Badly** Gary takes a trip down memory lane (r) (T) (40351)
**10.30** CHOICE **The Football Millionaires** Have today's footballers got too much power? (T) (567448)
**11.20 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia** The sights and sounds of Melbourne (4/8) (r) (T) (223887)
**12.00 On the Waterfront (1954)** Gritty multi-Oscar-winning drama, with Marlon Brando and Eva Marie Saint. Directed by Elia Kazan (T) (474291)
**1.45am Weather** (1207253)
**1.50 BBC News 24** (93504217)



**WALES:**

**6.30pm-7.00 Wales Today** (T) (351) **9.30 Week In Week Out** (81142) **10.00 Jailbirds** (2/10) (T) (40351) **10.30 Men Behaving Badly** (r) (T) (53871) **11.00 The Football Millionaires** (T) (258968) **11.50 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia** (4/8) (r) (T) (485210) **12.30am FILM: On the Waterfront** (T) (243543) **2.15 News** (T) (9587611) **2.20-6.00 BBC News 24** (58595017)

## BBC2

**7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show:** Pingu **7.05** Teletubbies **7.30** Snorks **7.50** Blue Peter **8.20** Taz-Mania **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts **8.50** Pingu **9.00** German Globo **9.10** Working It Out **9.25** Music Makers **9.45** Numbertime **10.00** Teletubbies **10.30** Watch **10.45** Science Zone **11.05** Space Ark **11.15** Megamaths **11.35** Words and Pictures **11.50** D-Mag **12.10pm** English Express **12.30** Working Lunch **1.00** Oakie Doke War Walks (2/6) (r) (T) **1.40** Hart-Davis on History **2.10** Awash with Colour **2.40** News; Weather (T) **2.45** Westminster (T) **3.25** News; Weather (T) **3.30** The Village (r) **3.55** Kaye **4.25** Ready, Steady, Cook (T) **4.55** Esther (T) **5.30** Whose House?
**6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air** Comedy, starring Will Smith (r) (T) (322158)
**6.25 Heartbreak High** Nat decides to leave home (T) (499581)
**7.10 The O Zone** Interviews with Cher and Ian McCulloch (T) (257210)
**7.30 From the Edge** Kim Tserkezie tests theatres' facilities for the deaf (T) (177)
**8.00 House Proud** Jan Tempest's Portakabin is almost complete (3/4) (T) (5210)
**8.30 Your Money or Your Life** Sound finance advice for a student in debt and a couple struggling to pay for their retirement holiday (T) (7245)
**9.00 Home Front in the Garden** Diarmuid Gavin helps a woman to realise her dream of more privacy (T) (2581)


A profile of the feminist writer Germaine Greer (9.30pm)

**9.30** CHOICE **Close Up: Germaine Greer** An absorbing portrait of the influential writer (5/7) (T) (112564)
**10.20 Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework** Obsessives (T) (235719)
**10.30 Newsnight** (611910)
**11.08 Video Nation Shorts** (723734)
**11.10 Seinfeld** Jerry's parents move in with Elaine (T) (106516)
**11.35** CHOICE **The Larry Sanders Show** The future of Larry's show is looking bleak (T) (807413)
**11.55 Weather** (315142)
**12.00 Despatch Box** With Andrew Neil (20833)
**12.30am BBC Learning Zone:** Open University Communications, Money and Work **1.30** Catalysts Against Pollution **2.00** Schools Science — Seeing Through Science **4.00** Languages: Make German Your Business — Part One **5.00** Business and Training: Career Moves — Telecommunications **5.45** Open University: The Emergence of Greek Mathematics **6.10** The Census **6.35** The Statistician Strikes Back

**WALES:**

**6.25pm Turning Points** (687622) **6.30 From the Edge** (T) (993) **7.00 FAW Premier Cup** (12620581) **9.20 House Proud** (3/4) (T) (222210) **9.50-10.20 Home Front in the Garden** (T) (472993)

## HTV

**5.30am ITV Morning News** (45516)
**6.00 GMTV** (5720177)
**9.25 Trisha** (T) (8952806)
**10.30 This Morning** (T) (44494500)
**12.15pm HTV News** (T) (4982142)
**12.30 ITV Lunchtime News** (T) (4534245)
**12.55 Shortland Street** (9898055)
**1.30 Home and Away** Marilyn gets a surprise (T) (35674622)
**1.55 The Jerry Springer Show** Outrageous American talk show (T) (9288546)
**2.40 Wheel of Fortune** (T) (2562054)
**3.10 ITV News Headlines** (T) (4633239)
**3.15 HTV News** (T) (4625210)
**3.20 CITV:** Mopatop's Shop (4719603) **3.30** Rosie and Jim (9779516) **3.40** The Wombles (9686852) **3.55** Rupert (4424264) **4.15** Mike and Angelo (5433245) **4.40** How 2 (3395595)
**5.00 Home and Away** (r) (T) (3852)
**5.30 WEST: Can You Keep a Secret?** Local youngsters spring surprises on unsuspecting adults (2/7) (T) (326)
**5.30 WALES: Night Owls** (T) (326)
**5.58 HTV Crimestoppers** (800662)
**5.59 HTV Weather** (800662)
**6.00 HTV News** (T) (239)
**6.30 ITV Evening News;** Weather (T) (719)
**7.00 Emmerdale** Marlon puts Biff on the spot (T) (6516)
**7.30 WEST: West Eye View** Report on the state of the region's railways as complaints reach an record high (603)
**7.30 WALES: High Performance** Ron Davies's views on the Welsh assembly (2/6) (T) (603)
**8.00 Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?** Ultimate big-prize game show (T) (4055)


Julie Bramall and Ben Miles star as a couple facing a tough choice (9pm)

**9.00 Peak Practice** Sam gets emotionally involved in the heartrending case of a pregnant cancer sufferer who refuses to endanger her unborn child by undergoing treatment (T) (7719)
**10.00 Wonderful You** Clare gets a proposition (2/7) (T) (2846)
**11.00 ITV Nightly News;** Weather (T) (113806)
**11.20 HTV News and Weather** (T) (482595)
**11.30 The Big Match: FA Cup Highlights** Highlights of Barnsley v Spurs (74245)
**12.30am The Big Match: Champions' League Special** Preview of tomorrow's quarter-final second-legs (28938)
**1.00 The Haunted Fishtank** The irreverent TV review with Ed Hall (47659)
**1.30 Airwolf** (r) (6204543)
**2.25 Judge Judy** Real-life court cases; ITV News Headlines (9198475)
**2.50 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (8682659)
**3.15 Dead Men's Tales** The story of mountain climber Doug Scott's struggle to survive the ill-fated ascent of the Ogre in Pakistan (r); News Headlines (94036)
**3.45 Football Extra** Highlights (r) (9169475)
**4.40 Coach** (59275291)
**5.00 ITV Nightscreen** (51794)

## CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
**12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weather** (7120210)
**12.55 Home and Away** (4542264)
**1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (4114158)
**2.10-2.40 Heart of the Country** (56453806)
**3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather** (4625210)
**5.30 Shortland Street** (326)
**6.00-6.30 Central News at Six; Weather** (239)
**7.30-8.00 30 Minutes** (603)
**11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather** (482595)
**1.30-2.30am Highlander** (62562)
**2.30 Wish You Were Here?** (42253)
**3.00 Dead Men's Tales** (12110098)
**3.25 Football Extra** (1397659)
**4.25 Central Jobfinder '99** (3383659)
**5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (3277494)

**WESTCOUNTRY**

As HTV West except: **12.15pm Westcountry News** (T) (4982142) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (7218429) **12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live** (T) (4542264) **1.25 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (4114158) **2.10-2.40 Home and Away** (T) (56453806) **3.15-3.20 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (4625210) **4.58-5.00 Birthday People** (7804061) **5.30 Our House** (T) (326) **6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live;** Weather (T) (239) **7.30-8.00 Stranger than Fiction** (3/6) (T) (603) **11.20-11.30 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (482595)

**MERIDIAN**

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (4982142) **5.30 Surprise Chefs** (9/10) (326) **6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight** (T) (239) **7.29 Meridian Weather** (701061) **7.30-8.00 The Plain** (1/4) (r) (T) (603) **11.20-11.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (482595) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (51794)

**ANGLIA**

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (7212245) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (7120210) **5.25-6.00 About Anglia** (8014332) **6.00-6.30 Anglia News** (T) (239) **7.30-8.00 Out to Lunch with Brian Turner** (3/13) (603) **11.19 Anglia Air Watch** (615974) **11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (482595)

**S4C**

Starts: **6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (88762852) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (67715581) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Science in Focus (29148332) **9.20 What the Papers Said** (29708887) **9.30 Eureka** (74076177) **9.45 Addysg Rhyw** (74064332) **10.00 The Number Crew** (14011603) **10.10 TVM** (91747968) **10.25 How We Used to Live** (91822603) **10.45 Worlds of Faith** (96112887) **11.00 First Edition** (15982448) **11.15 Stage One** (15892871) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (68230061) **12.00 Sesame Street** (T) (97026429) **12.30pm Planed Plant** (T) (26844974) **1.00 The Afternoon Line** (67725968) **1.30 The Cheltenham Festival** (64018061) **4.30 Ricki Lake** (T) (67059871) **5.00 Planed Plant** (90041697) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (67146351) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (93399784) **6.10 Heno** (T) (86952887) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (90127061) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (67050500) **8.00 Y Sloe Gelf** (T) (90030581) **8.30 Pengelli** (T) (90122516) **9.00 Tair Chwaer** (r) (37374622) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (72689974) **10.35 Queer as Folk** (4/8) (T) (52134968) **11.15 The 11 O'Clock Show** (38366993) **11.45 Boyz Unlimited** (6/6) (T) (38365264) **12.15am The Cheltenham Festival** (51773833) **12.45 Thomas Country** (T) (90525949) **1.45 Diwedd**

## CHANNEL 4

**6.00am Sesame Street** (r) (25264)
**7.00 The Big Breakfast** (61993)
**9.00 Schools:** Science in Focus (4259581) **9.20** What the Papers Said (8799697) **9.30** Eureka (8644871) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (8649326) **10.00** The Number Crew (5960142) **10.10** TVM (9910516) **10.25** How We Used to Live (9922351) **10.45** Worlds of Faith (9189055) **11.00** First Edition IV (3053784) **11.15** Stage One (3149535)
**11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (8142)
**12.00 Sesame Street** (T) (32332)
**12.30pm Bewitched** (r) (T) (67516)
**1.00 The Afternoon Line** Racing tips (68852)
**1.30 The Cheltenham Festival** Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the **2.00** Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle, **2.35** Guinness Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase, **3.15** Smurfit Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy and the **3.55** William Hill National Hunt Handicap Chase (543055)
**4.30 Countdown** (T) (3003622)
**4.55 Ricki Lake** (T) (5048413)
**5.30 Pet Rescue** (T) (968)
**6.00 Dishes** Dating show with a culinary theme (T) (581)
**6.30 Home Improvement** Brad's enthusiasm for his new job impresses proud parents Tim and Jill (T) (531)
**7.00 Channel 4 News;** Weather (T) (536871)
**7.55 Bodyscapes** A close-up look at shaving (T) (594993)
**8.00 Brookside** Nikki comes clean about Ryan (T) (3806)
**8.30 Classic British Cars** The impact of the car on British families during the 1950s, when the first easily affordable models became available (4/8) (T) (9413)
**9.00 The Coroner** The decomposing body of an elderly woman is found in a top-floor flat, her death having gone unnoticed for weeks (5/5) (T) (8061)
**10.00 Father Ted** A feminist singer takes over Ted's house (r) (T) (33061)
**10.30 Queer as Folk** Stuart and Vince meet Phil's grieving mother at his funeral, as well as some old friends (T) (182806)
**11.10 The 11 O'Clock Show** Satirical comedy with Iain Lee (846622)
**11.40 The Cheltenham Festival** With Lesley Graham (197158)


Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie in Nicolas Roeg's drama (12.15am)

**12.15am Don't Look Now (1973)** Eerie drama about a couple (Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie) who become involved in a series of bizarre incidents after travelling to Venice to recover from their daughter's death (T) (383475)
**2.10 The Rosary Murders (1987)** A priest (Donald Sutherland) seeks out a ruthless murderer targeting members of the cloth. Mystery thriller directed by Fred Walton (T) (653833)
**3.55 Urn** Cinematic poem about a woman's dreams of love (73281272)
**4.00 Schools:** Quest (81594776)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00am 5 News and Sport** (5109662)
**7.00 WideWorld** Part 18. A look at the work of the Co-operative Women's Guild (r) (T) (8994535)
**7.30 Milkshake!** (2419061)
**7.35 Wimzie's House** (r) (4498790)
**8.00 Havakazoo** (r) (2548413)
**8.30 Dappledown Farm** (r) (2547784)
**9.00 Instant Gardens** (6/14) (r) (T) (5210451)
**9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards** (r) (4270332)
**9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (r) (1536531)
**10.20 Sunset Beach** (T) (3467974)
**11.10 Leeza** (7719023)
**12.00 5 News at Noon** (T) (2541500)
**12.30pm Family Affairs** Gabby and Declan get intimate (r) (T) (1092622)
**1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful** Dylan is turned down (T) (8993806)
**1.30 The Roseanne Show** Entertainment, music and chat with the outrageous comedian; 5 News Update (1091993)
**2.00 100 Per Cent Gold** (9970622)
**2.30 Good Afternoon** (1405210)
**3.30 Destination America (TVM 1987)** A blue-collar worker is suspected of murdering his estranged upper-class father. Drama, starring Bruce Greenwood and Rip Torn. Directed by Corey Allen (T) (8794603)
**5.25 5 News** (83242582)
**5.30 100 Per Cent** (2217790)
**6.00 5 News; Weather** Round-up of the day's stories (T) (2214603)
**6.30 Family Affairs** Siobhan returns to Charnham (T) (2132055)
**7.00 Knight Rider** Adventure series, starring David Hasselhoff as Michael Knight, a hi-tech vigilante battling to protect the innocent from crooks with the help of his talking car (r) (9878210)
**7.30 Natural Passions** Documentary about women who have dedicated their lives to rescuing animals (T) (2138239)
**8.00 Crime Report** The case of the prison officer Peter Curran, whose body was found in his car in a drainage ditch, months after his disappearance in the wake of an IRA breakout at Whitemoor Prison (4/6) (9967158)
**8.30 Bug Alert!: What's the Story?** The problems that experts predict will plague the country if the so-called millennium Bug strikes. Vanessa Collingridge also investigates some of the latest insects to have established themselves in Britain; 5 News Update (9979993)
**9.00 Once a Thief (1991)** John Woo's action-packed comedy thriller, starring Chow Yun Fat and Leslie Cheung as inept thieves and their attempts to steal a priceless painting. With Cherrie Chung. Directed by John Woo (T); 5 News Update (49018245)
**10.40 Love Street** Erotic short starring Dana Waters (1492784)
**11.20 Two** Gus protects a woman from her abusive husband (5473784)
**12.15am The Jack Docherty Show** With Graham Kelly (1562543)
**12.55 Live and Dangerous** All-night sports magazine (89467098)
**3.45 Asian Football Show** (7351949)
**4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (7832562)
**5.30 100 Per Cent** (r) (8513369)

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## SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

### SKY ONE

**7.00am** Count Duckula (980611) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (91790) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (87806) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (18005) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (99992) **11.00** Guilty! (93516) **12.00** Jenny Jones (22413) **1.00pm** Mad About You (97332) **1.30** Jeopardy (15177) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (88142) **3.00** Jenny Jones (17061) **4.00** Guilty! (30968) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (2719) **6.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (9351) **6.30** Dream Team (9513) **7.00** The Simpsons (3448) **7.30** The Simpsons (6987) **8.00** Rescue Medics (6968) **8.30** Coppers (1603) **9.00** World's Wildest Police Videos (61326) **10.00** Bloody Foreigners! (64413) **11.00** Dream Team (31697) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (69332) **12.30am** The Commish (56982) **1.30** Long Play (8684007)

### SKY BOX OFFICE

**Sky's pay-per-view movie channels.**
To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **Firestorm (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Fallen (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Flubber (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Double Team (1997)**

### SKY PREMIER

**6.00am The Lies He Told (1996)** (39177) **8.00 An American Tail II: Fievel Goes West (1991)** (73364) **10.00 House Arrest (1996)** (18264) **12.00** The Directors: Joel Schumacher (11351) **1.00pm** Hollywood Buzz (24871) **2.00 The Lies He Told (1996)** (59535) **4.00 An American Tail II: Fievel Goes West (1991)** (8992) **6.00 House Arrest (1996)** (66871) **8.00 Wall Street (1987)** (41516) **10.00 The Full Monty (1997)** (938564) **11.40 Never Talk to Strangers (1995)** (430790) **1.10am The Sheltering Sky (1990)** (47450534) **3.30 The War of the Roses (1989)** (581746)

### SKY MOVIEMAX

**6.00am Desperate (1947)** (64719) **7.00 A Holiday for Love (1996)** (16413) **9.00 Spiceworld: The Movie (1997)** (62158) **11.00 Laura Lansing Slept Here (TVM 1988)** (40784) **1.00 A Holiday for Love (1996)** (66974) **3.00 The Buttercream Gang (1992)** (70448) **5.00 Laura Lansing Slept Here (TVM 1988)** (91055) **7.00 Spiceworld: The Movie (1997)** (30103) **9.00 Hollywood Confidential (1997)** (42245) **11.00 Brutal Glory (1989)** (320055) **12.40am Normal Life (1995)** (151098) **2.25 Murphy's Romance (1985)** (209036) **4.15 The Buttercream Gang (1992)** (68564901)

### SKY CINEMA

**4.00pm Advise and Consent (1962)** (1785413) **6.30 Destination Moon (1950)** (9368148) **8.00 A Touch of Larceny (1959)** (2336697) **10.00 Going My Way (1944)** (12537790) **12.05am No Way to Treat a Lady (1968)** (8268746) **1.55 The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds (1972)** (4952562) **3.40 Seven Days' Leave (1942)** (20683253)

### FILMFOUR

**6.00pm Journey to the Centre of the Earth (1959)** (93481730) **8.10 Tin Men (1987)** (63609351) **10.05 The Pillow Book (1996)** (82575326) **12.15am Helas Pour Moi (1993)** (5560123) **1.55 Nothing Personal (1995)** (4391036) **3.20 Cal (1984)** (18626185) **5.00** Close

### TNT

**9.00pm Fame (1980)** (63103784) **11.30 Ada (1961)** (94182577) **1.45am The Hunger (1983)** (23332036) **3.30 Village of the Damned (1960)** (82372291) **5.00** Close

### SKY SPORTS 1

**7.00am** Sports Centre **7.15** V-Max **7.45** Total Sport **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** League Review **11.00** Table Tennis **12.00** Aerobics **12.30pm** Total Sport **1.00** Spanish Football **2.30** League Review **3.30** V-Max **4.00** Sports Unlimited **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Inside Scottish Football **7.30** Fastrax **8.00** Premier Snooker League **10.00** Sports Centre **10.15** You're On Sky Sports! **11.00** Inside Scottish Football **12.00** Sports Centre **12.15am** You're On Sky Sports! **1.00** Premier Snooker League **3.00** Sports Centre **3.15** Close

### SKY SPORTS 2

**7.00am** Aerobics **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Moto-Plus **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** International Bowls **12.00** World Motor Sport **3.00pm** *Live Cricket* **10.00** Table Tennis **11.00** Sports Unlimited **12.00** Snowboarding **12.30am** Fastrax **1.00** *Football FA Cup Special* **2.30** Sports Centre **2.45** Close

### SKY SPORTS 3

**12.00am** Wrestling **1.00pm** Fish TV **2.00** Wonderful World of Golf **3.00** Golden Age of Motor Racing **3.30** Bowls **5.30** Fastrax **6.00** Table Tennis **7.00** World Motor Sport **10.00** Football FA Cup Special **11.30** Close

### EUROSPORT

**7.30am** Adventure **8.00** Cart **9.30** Women's Biathlon **11.00** Eurogoals **12.30** Snowboarding **1.00** Dog Sled Racing **1.30** Snooker **3.00** Ten-Pin Bowling **4.00** Eurogoals **5.30** Stock Car **6.45** Strongest Man **7.45** Boxing **8.45** Live Football **10.45** Live Football **12.00** Rally **12.30am** Close

### UK GOLD

**7.00am** Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.30** Pride and Prejudice **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Red Dwarf **9.40** Crime Traveller **10.45** Bugs **11.50** The Bill **12.50am** Blackadder the Third **1.25** French and Saunders **2.00** Dangerfield **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

### GRANADA PLUS

**6.00am** Within These Walls **7.00** Holding the Fort **7.30** Odd Couple **8.00** Hallelujah **8.30** The Many Wives of Patrick **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **11.00** The Gentle Touch **12.00** Classic Coronation Street **12.30pm** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** The Many Wives of Patrick **1.30** Me and My Girl **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Professionals **5.00** Hart to Hart **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** The Professionals **8.00** The Benny Hill Show **9.00** The Sweeney **10.00** The Brian Conley Show **10.30** Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club **11.00** Close

### CARLTON SELECT

**5.00pm** What's Cooking? **5.30** Gridlock **6.00** My Two Wives **6.30** Our House **7.00** Shine On, Harvey Moon **8.00** Chancer **9.00** The Upper Hand **9.30** Flying Start **10.00** Peak Practice **11.00** Hill Street Blues **12.00** My Two Wives **12.30am** Gridlock **1.00** Close

Lewis Carroll's classic adventure is brought to life in the animated version of *Alice in Wonderland* (Disney Channel, 7pm)

### DISNEY CHANNEL

**6.00am** Gummi Bears **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Tale Spin **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Rosie and Jim **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00** The Adventures of Spot **12.05pm** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.10** Rosie and Jim **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Alice in Wonderland (1951)** **8.15** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.00** Double Dinosaurs **10.00** Home Improvement **10.30** Wonder Years **11.00** Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman **12.00** Close

### FOX KIDS NETWORK

**6.00am** Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Power Rangers Turbo **6.55** Spiderman **7.20** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Hero Turtles **8.25** Incredible Hulk **8.50** Iron Man **9.15** Fantastic Four **9.40** X-Men **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** Eek!Stravaganza **11.05** Bobby's World **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Dennis and Gnasher **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.55** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** X-Press **3.35** Spiderman **4.00** Goosebumps **4.25** Hero Turtles: The Next Mutation **4.50** Casper **5.00** Dennis and Gnasher **5.30** Ace Ventura **6.00** Donkey Kong Country **6.30** Eek!Stravaganza **6.55** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.00** Close

### NICKELODEON

**6.00am** Rocko **6.30** Bruno the Kid **7.00** CatDog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Papa Beaver Stories **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Paddington Bear etc **2.30** Children's BBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Three Friends and Jerry **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Renford Rejects **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

### TROUBLE

**7.00am** USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved by the Bell: New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **9.50** On the Make **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00** Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30pm** In the House **1.00** Sweat **1.30** Tempestt **2.20** On the Make **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** USA High **6.30** Blast Steps Special **7.00** Sweat **7.30** Hang Time

### BRAVO

**8.00pm** Martial Law **9.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **9.30** Cops **10.00** Late Lounge **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Red Heat (1988)** **1.00am** Erotic Confessions **1.30** Late Lounge **2.00** Martial Law **3.00 FILM: Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (1977)** **5.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **5.30** Cops **6.00** Close

### PARAMOUNT COMEDY

**7.00pm** Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** Spin City **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line is it Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00am** Taxi **1.30** Frontline **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

### THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

**SATELLITE: 5pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY**

**7.30am** Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **12.00** The Twilight Zone **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Buck Rogers in the 25th Century **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** V **9.00** Twin Peaks **10.00 FILM: Parasite (1982)** **11.35** Sci-Focus Special **12.00** Dark Skies **1.00am FILM: Halloween II (1981)** **2.45** Sci-Focus Special **3.00** Dark Shadows **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

### HOME & LEISURE

**6.00am** Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.30** The Great Gardening Plot **10.00** Instant Gardens **10.30** Two's Country Cooking **11.00** The Diceman **11.25** The Home and Leisure House **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00** Our House Down Under **12.30pm** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Charlie West Fishing

### DISCOVERY

**4.00pm** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** A River Somewhere **5.00** Hitler **6.00** Wildlife SOS **6.30** Untamed Africa **7.30** The Quest **8.00** Great Escapes **8.30** Out There **9.00** Trailblazers **10.00** Irlandsis Descent in the Ice **11.00** Silent Warriors **12.00** The Great Egyptians **1.00am** Hitler **2.00** Close

### ANIMAL PLANET

**12.00am** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **12.30pm** Hollywood Safari **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** Breed All About It: Greyhounds **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunters **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Totally Australia **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** The Last Paradises **10.30** Animal Detectives **11.00** All-Bird TV **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00** Close

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

**7.00pm** Seal Hunter's Cave **7.30** Rocky Mountain Beaver Pond **8.00** Kalahari **9.00** Natural Born Killers: Lions of the African Night **10.00** Mystery Tomb of Abusir **10.30** Ice Tombs of Siberia **11.00** The Grizzlies **12.00** Shark Files: Sharks of Pirate Island

### HISTORY

**4.00pm** Vietnam: Dien Bien Phu **5.00** Pirate Ships **6.00** *China: Dynasties of Power* **7.00** Jimmy Stewart

### CARLTON FOOD

**9.00am** Food Network Daily **9.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **10.00** The Green Gourmet **10.30** First Taste **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** A Slice of the Action **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Loyd's Louisiana **1.00** Coxon's Kitchen College **1.30** Thoroughly Modern British **2.00** Chez Bruno **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Nordic Nosh **3.30** A Slice of the Action **4.00** Tessa's Tastebuds **4.30** Lunch with Ed Baines **5.00** Close

### LIVING

**6.00am** Tiny and Crew **6.20** 10 plus 2 **6.40** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Bebeloos **8.30** Tiny Tales **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Special Babies **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Through the Keyhole **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **1.40** Maury Povich **2.30** Special Babies **3.00** The Living Room **3.50** Michael Cole **4.40** Through the Keyhole **5.10** The Heat Is On **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.00** LA Law **9.00 FILM: Lover's Knot (1995)** **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00** Close

### ZEE TV

**5.00am** Punjabi Folk Songs **5.30** Old is Gold **6.00** Aap Ki Farmaish **6.30** Usha Uthup Show **7.00** Faith: Hindu **7.30** Daily News **8.00** Out and About **8.30** Tara **9.00** Himalaya's Hasratein **10.00** Yes Sir Eid, No Sir Eid **11.00** Khana Khazana **11.30** Parampara **12.00 FILM** **3.00pm** Bangla TV Nokhattrer Rat **3.30** Cine Magic **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Zee Top 10 **5.30** Aashirwad **6.00** 1-10 **6.30** Humm Tara Rum **7.00** Jee Sahab **7.30** Chalo Cinema **8.00** News **8.30** Daraar **9.00** Do Aur Do Paanch **9.30** Zanjeeren **10.00** Hadd Kar Di **10.30** Mahabharat **11.30** Yaadon Ke Rang **12.00** News **12.30am** Pakistan Business Week **1.00** Bangla TV **1.30** Parmartan **2.00 FILM:** Urdu Movie **4.30** Lolly-Pop



**TENNIS 49**
Moya thrives on pressure of being new world No 1

# SPORT

**CRICKET 50**
Australia claw back initiative as McGrath takes five in Jamaica





# Lewis camp fights for changed decision



Lewis: waiting for decision on rematch with Holyfield

LENNOX LEWIS faces the distinct possibility of having to go through meaningless contests to acquire the three belts that will give him the title of undisputed world heavyweight champion.

As a result of the seriously flawed decision that robbed him of the title that would have given him universal acclaim, he has to wait on a rematch with Evander Holyfield. He can also reflect ruefully that the British judge, Larry O'Connell, yesterday — sadly too late — acknowledged the error of his decision to make the contest a draw, although the admission should strengthen the Lewis camp's case for the result to be overturned.

If Holyfield decides to retire, Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, will have to meet the new World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation (IBF) champions. He would have no trouble disposing of the new incumbents but the impact of winning the undisputed world title piecemeal would not have the same impact as lifting it from Holyfield.

It is not certain what Holyfield will do. At present, his lawyer is talking to Lewis's promoters, Panix, of London, about a rematch. But that course could prove difficult to follow because the purses will have to be split 50-50 and that might not appeal to Holyfield.

Holyfield was reluctant to box for his $18 million (about £11 million) purse. He will have to take $14 million for the rematch, assuming that HBO, the pay-per-view television network, would still guarantee $28 million as it did for the last contest.

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

It will be surprising if Holyfield agrees to a pay cut. Also, it is possible that Holyfield's family, realising that the Lewis bout pushed him deeper into physical decline, might persuade him to get out before he suffers serious injury, just as Muhammad Ali did by staying in boxing too long.

That is why Lewis's trainer, Emanuel Steward, wants the decision to be changed through a special investigation. "I want to see the decision overturned," Steward said. "This injustice should not stop here because I heard on television that the public gave Holyfield only one round. Decent, intelligent people. The fifth round should be the core of the investigation."

The judge, Eugenia Williams, whose scoring came under severe criticism for giving the fifth round, Lewis's best, to Holyfield, is an IBF official. The IBF is at present the subject of a Senate inquiry.

Lewis's stature has suddenly grown here, with sports fans looking at him as a real champion. Some Americans who took bets on the fight are accepting that Lewis was the winner and are paying up.

He will be staying here for two days for television appearances before returning to London. Lewis said yesterday: "I don't think Evander Holyfield is going to want a rematch. He was feeling disappointed at the end of the fight. He never even held up his hand.

"I held up my hand. I went over to say sorry, and he said, 'that's the way it goes'. There is no doubt that he lost. He looked bad after the fight, like a hurt man, like an old man and there was a lot of despair in his face. Physically, he looked beat up.

"It seems that he was a man living in a fantasy world who had just woken up. When somebody asked whether he wanted a rematch, he wasn't quick to give an answer and Don King jumped in talking some stuff.

"Holyfield should realise that a rematch could put him in some physical danger. He should start thinking about the health aspect. He claimed that he was suffering some cramp after the fight, but I heard a whisper that it was his ribs. Next time I'll knock him out."

Stewart added: "I never thought that Holyfield should have taken the fight in the first place with Lennox. Last night he looked like an old, slow, bald man. He should be man enough to say Lennox beat him."

Lewis said that this setback was typical of his career, which had been bedevilled by politics and top boxers who had avoided him. He was now beginning to get used to the idea and realised that boxing was really about money. "I realise it's a business, more and more. If I don't get a rematch, I'll have to fight [Henry] Akinwande and others. I hope Holyfield will give me a rematch and the quicker the better."

The only other opponent for Lewis is Mike Tyson. He said he will be happy to take him on after he has become the undisputed heavyweight champion.

Judge's error, page 1

# Irish runners fancied for Festival record

BY ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT





THE addictive Cheltenham madness descends today amid a growing conviction that Ireland could achieve a record number of winners. Last night, as the spa town began to fill with racegoers as restless as greyhounds in their traps, thousands of Irish folk were intent on starting three days of celebration by acclaiming Istabraq as the shortest-priced winner of the Champion Hurdle for 45 years.

Irish-trained horses have never won more than seven races at the Festival, but that figure, achieved in 1977 and 1996, is clearly under threat at a meeting that will begin in forecast sunshine, on drying ground — described as good to soft — and with more than 85 per cent of the 150,000 tickets already sold.

Ireland provides the favourite for the first three races today and bookmakers are preparing for an early onslaught. Sporting Index, the spread betting firm, began trading on Irish winners last Friday and report that one-way business has forced the market up from a buying level of 4.7 to 5.5.

Istabraq is likely to start around 2-1 on to become the first horse to retain the hurdling crown since See You Then in 1985. The last winner of the race at a comparable price was Sir Ken, 9-4 on when completing the hat-trick in 1954.

Since being narrowly beaten on his hurdling debut in 1996, Istabraq has won 14 of his past 15 races. His jockey, Charlie Swan, is mortified by the one that got away. "I'm sick about it. If he hadn't been beaten at Liverpool last season he would have been like Cigar in America, going for 17 or 18 on the bounce," he said.

The Aintree defeat came at the hands of Pridwell, ridden by Tony McCoy, described by Swan as "possibly the best jockey I've seen — he's just so brave". While some jockeys took a day off before the Festival, McCoy won the selling hurdle at Taunton. Corals quote him at 7-4 favourite to be leading jockey at the Festival for the third successive year.

All five of McCoy's rides today are for Martin Pipe, who is evidently hellbent on increasing his tally of 22 Festival winners. Most trainers are delighted to have one horse good enough to run, but Pipe is sending out no fewer than 21 on the opening day alone.

Steve Gollings is at the other end of the training scale but he had his moment of glory when In Truth won the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase at 20-1 last March and he aims for a repeat today, in every sense. He moved his horse into the racecourse yard at the weekend, to follow precisely the successful pattern of last year.

Cheltenham is an arena where many cling to superstitions and familiarity. Pat Taaffe, rider of Arkle, the greatest of all Irish champions, always stayed at the same hotel. Many thousands of others seek to return to regular bases but not all find it easy. Ruth Hampson, of the town's tourist office, reported yesterday that demand for accomodation has been higher than ever this year.

"I started booking back in September, two months ahead of normal, and the level of enquiries has never slackened," she said. "There will be a queue of people outside my office in the morning, all arrived with nowhere to stay. I suspect there will also be some unsuspecting Japanese tourists who have no idea what is going on."

Those who stay for the party may help to drink 14,000 bottles of champagne and 50,000 bottles of beer — and that is simply inside the racecourse. At the Queen's Hotel, where the practice for years was to strip the foyer of fine paintings and antique furniture and bring in garden chairs for the week, the restaurant has been converted into a long, functional Guinness bar. The Irish, after all, may have plenty of successes to toast.



Florida Pearl, the big Irish hope for the Gold Cup on Thursday, crops the spring grass at Cheltenham in a moment of tranquility before the storm of excitement breaks today

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1666

ACROSS
1 Copying others' work (10)
8 *Alice* illustrator (7)
9 To summarise (2,3)
10 *Peter Pan* pirate captain (4)
11 US lawyer (8)
13 Relative; pawnbroker (5)
14 In appropriate way (5)
16 A horse; an old joke (8)
17 Coffin stand (4)
20 Promise; be profane (5)
21 Chiselling, forcing, out (7)
22 Dominant position (10)

DOWN
1 Level of sound; steepness of slope (5)
2 Henry VIII's Flanders Mare (4,2,6)
3 An eye membrane (4)
4 Tell; be connected (6)
5 Incidental benefits (from discovery) (4-4)
6 Underfed condition (12)
7 Like sticky earth (6)
12 Dancers' stretchy garments (8)
13 Material thrown out; mine shaft (6)
15 Colourful cagebird *(abbr.)* (6)
18 A school; a game (5)
19 Store of earmarked money (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1665
ACROSS: 1 Skew 3 Articled 8 Regular 10 Numbs 11 Contretemps 13 Excess 15 Anomie 17 Warm-blooded 20 Amity 21 Restful 22 Figurine 23 Germ
DOWN: 1 Sprocket 2 Elgin 4 Rarity 5 Ignominious 6 Lump sum 7 Desk 9 Lord's Prayer 12 Pendulum 14 Cowling 16 Oberon 18 Defoe 19 Naff



# Italy aches as Ronaldo calls in the doctor

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MILAN

THE extent of the obsession with the fitness of the world's best footballer became apparent yet again yesterday when Italian televison stations flew into a panic because Ronaldo had missed a training session suffering from a bad headache.

The news that a doctor had been called to attend to the Brazilian in the early hours of the morning at the Internazionale training camp at Appiano Gentile immediately raised concerns that Ronaldo was succumbing to the same stresses and strains that sent him into convulsions before the World Cup final last summer.

The pressure on him has hardly relented since then, and now, after a two-month absence because of a lingering knee injury, Inter are pinning all their hopes on his return as they prepare to try to overturn their 2-0 deficit against Manchester United in the second leg of their European Cup quarter-final here tomorrow night.

Inter, though, insisted that the speculation was ridiculous. "There is nothing mysterious about this," a club spokeswoman said. "It was only a headache, nothing serious, nothing terrible. Anyway, he trained fully with the rest of the team this afternoon. There is no problem."

There are no problems for Manchester United. At training yesterday the only player not being considered for selection was David May, the defender, who has struggled against injury all season. A party of 22 was due to fly to Milan this morning, taking with them Nicky Butt, the midfield player, who has recovered quickly from a hip injury. Crucially, Peter Schmeichel has recovered from a bout of flu.

Ronny Johnsen could be preferred to Henning Berg as the partner to Jaap Stam in the United defence. Stam, who has played with and against Ronaldo, yesterday spoke of his sympathy for the pressure that the Brazil forward is under, but Alex Ferguson, the United manager, remained in an unforgiving mood.

"Inter did not manage to score an away goal in the first leg," Ferguson said, "and they will realise how important that could be. One more from us tomorrow and we could put the tie beyond their reach."

Stam feels that it is unfair to expect so much from someone as young as Ronaldo, 22. "I know Ronaldo very well," Stam, who played with the Brazilian briefly at PSV Eindhoven, said. "I feel sorry for him now as he's under so much pressure all the time."

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● Alan Lee talks to Rod Simpson, whose chequered training career has brought him to Cheltenham today with Nipper Reed
● Day-by-day guide to the Irish prospects
TOMORROW AND THURSDAY
● The Times team of Alan Lee, Chris McGrath, Rob Wright and Simon Barnes will bring you the best coverage of the three days



